Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

World's Envy
Canada thinks it can teach the world a thing or two about dodging financial meltdowns.

WORLD...Page 16

Korean War
The war without end began that long-ago Sunday when North Korea invaded the south to try to reunify the nation.

FOCUS...Page 17

Last Day
A year ago, the world watched as Michael Jackson balanced on the edge of a precipice.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Kagman rape suspect falls

» Police: Suspect was one of 3 that raped student at Tank Beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested Friday night one of three suspects in the kidnapping and rape of a 16-year-old student in Kagman last week.

Angel Jess Santos, 21, of Kagman III, was arrested for rape, kidnapping, sexual abuse of a minor, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace charges.

See RAPE on Page 4

2010 NFL NATIONAL COMPETITION

In a historic first for NMI, Ortizo gets Show Me Excellence Award

Ortizo

» Named among Top 30 in nation for storytelling

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Ryan Bradley Ortizo made history for the CNMI after he was presented with the prestigious Show Me Excellence Award by the National Forensic League during Friday's awarding rites in Kansas, Missouri.

Only 28 of the more than 3,200 students that competed in the NFL national last week bagged the special recognition, which comes with

See ORTIZO on Page 4

Suspected burglar falls

» Group allegedly behind break-ins at Mt. Carmel Church, Star Water, law office, others

RELATED NEWS

- Surveillance camera tape leads to arrest in store burglary. PAGE 2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A water company employee helped a police officer arrest early Friday morning a suspected burglar in Garapan who is also believed to be behind a rash of burglary incidents on Saipan, including at Mt. Carmel Church.

See BURGLAR on Page 4

Dwayne Davis, an administrative officer at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, picks up his and his colleagues' paychecks at Finance's Treasury Division office on Capital Hill shortly before the close of government office hours at 4:30pm yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Govt paychecks released after CDA transfers $1.9M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most government employees didn't have to wait for today or Wednesday to receive their delayed paychecks, thanks to the Commonwealth Development Authority's $1.9 million remittance to the general fund yesterday.

Insufficient funds delayed the re-

See PAYCHECKS on Page 4

Hiring of short-term physicians is more costly for CHC. PAGE 3
Japan delegates, Vietnam consul general in Micronesia chiefs summit. PAGE5

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Local

Surveillance camera tape leads to arrest of alleged store burglar

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict was arrested Friday night after a surveillance camera allegedly caught him and two others burglarizing the Twins Super Market in Puerto Rico.

Julian M. Sablan, 21, was arrested for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. Bail was set at $15,000 cash.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said investigators are still looking into the possibility that Sablan was also involved in the burglary incidents at Mt. Carmel Church, Joe Hill's law office, and other establishments.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that a burglary and theft incident was reported at the Twins Super Market in Puerto Rico on June 1 at 5:38am.

Castro said the store's front aluminum shutter door was forced open, along with the sliding glass door.

Stolen were $7,142.94 in cash, 138 cartons of assorted cigarettes, six bottles of liquor, and various prepaid phone cards.

Castro said the owner gave police a footage of their surveillance camera, showing the three suspects on tape.

Castro said Castro was identified as of the three suspects who pried open the aluminum shutter door. The suspects were also seen entering the store and exiting with boxes containing cartons of cigarettes.

The detective said Sablan is still under probation for a previous criminal conviction and is awaiting bench trial today, June 21, and a jury trial on Sept. 6, 2010.

On Nov. 9, 2010, a surveillance camera also reportedly caught Sablan and two others—Raymond Naputi Muna and Vicente SN. Muña—burglarizing the En Cool Phone Shop in San Antonio.

In January 2010, Sablan and Terrence C. Cabrera were arrested for allegedly burglarizing the Internet Café in Afetnas by shattering the glass door with a rock. They allegedly stole five computer monitors and three computer modems and eventually sold them to a store in Koblerville.

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The Island of Warm Hospitality

$3-million In Tourism Publicity in May 2010

In addition to its paid promotions in Japan and Korea, the Marianas Visitors Authority communicates with numerous media contacts each month to generate additional free media coverage for Northern Mariana Islands.

In May 2010, those efforts translated to over $3-million in additional, unpaid publicity for the islands.

In Japan, 149 publications, websites, and broadcast programs featured stories on the Northern Marianas, reaching an estimated 145-million people. In Korea, 50 media outlets featured stories reaching about 27-million people.

The biggest single public relations coverage was Tokudane! television's introduction of Tinian and interview with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz on May 11, circulating to over 4-million viewers and giving the Northern Marianas $1.5-million in free publicity. In addition to the possible role of the Northern Marianas in the Futenma Base relocation, other topics featured by media throughout the month included the MVA's Active Senior Campaign, 2010 Dive Marianas Campaign, wedding and honeymoon opportunities, Golden Week travel, Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim, Aqua Walk, travel industry updates, and much more.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

‘Hiring of short-term physicians is more costly for CHC’

» CHC pays $38K more; 8 locums currently onboard

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Physicians hired on a short-term basis—known as locums—are costlier for the Commonwealth Health Center compared to signing a doctor to a one-year or longer contract. In fact, the Department of Public Health pays about $38,000 more for locums, not including administrative costs associated with bringing them here.

Esther Muña, the acting deputy chief for Hospital Administration, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that it is more expensive to hire short-term doctors and “CHC is making efforts to move away from hiring locums to address staff shortage.”

Locums are usually hired for just three months.

Saipan Tribune learned that in one locum specialty, for example, CHC pays about $194,557 in salary and benefit contributions but then pays $10,560 for furnished housing and ground transportation, for a total cost of $205,117.

For the same specialty but under a longer-term contract, CHC pays $157,382 in salary and benefit contributions and pays up to an additional $9,600 for housing alone, for a total of $166,982.

The difference is $38,135 and does not include the administrative costs of processing a newly hired physician, such as costs incurred by Human Resources, Finance, and Accounting.

Locums are traditionally hired at a higher salary because of the stress that comes with leaving their current work behind to assist another facility. In addition to the higher pay, CHC also provides temporary housing and ground transportation to these doctors.

Muña said the hospital currently has eight locums. She stressed that locum contracts do not exceed 90 days.

“We had about eight locum contracts this year. So, after 90 days, CHC must make arrangement and pay for air transportation and submit licensing applications as route contracts for these individuals. The calculation for the locum annual salary is multiplied times four,” she said.

Muña admitted that hiring locums is stressful to the hospital’s current physicians and patients because of the higher turnover rate among locums, who have to be replaced after every three months, compared to if physicians were replaced annually or biannually.

In order to be fully staffed, CHC needs at least 43 physicians. At present it has over 20.

To eliminate the higher expenses tied to the hiring of locums, Muña said CHC needs to refocus its physician recruitment on candidates who want to stay longer.

“If CHC has adequate staffing for the inpatient, surgery, and the emergency department, CHC can do less or without locum hiring. Unfortunately, we are not where we want to be. Our efforts to move in that direction include applying for designation as a J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver site and posting provider job opportunities in Web sites and journals with readers and viewers interested in serving underserved areas like the CNMI,” Muna told *Saipan Tribune*.

DPH recently applied for the J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver designation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is still waiting for a response.

The J-1 visa is for foreign national physicians who want to obtain their residency training in the U.S. After completing the residency program, the physician needs to return to his/her country of origin for two years as part of the visa’s requirements. After the two-year interval, the physician can then apply for work in the U.S. under an H1-B visa.

The J-1 visa waiver program is a way for these physicians to avoid returning to their countries of origin, and begin working directly after completing their training. In order to sponsor doctors with a J-1 waiver, an area/institution needs to be designated as medically underserved.

Lawmaker bats for trades institute on Rota

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is pushing for the establishment of a vocational trades institute on Rota, similar to the Northern Mariana Trades Institute on Saipan.

“There is a pressing need to initiate a vocational trade institute on Rota as the demand for skilled tradesmen continues to grow and our people continue to be unemployed for the lack of skills in that area or field,” Santos said in a June 14 letter to Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

Santos said he met with NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino and toured the premises where classroom instructions are being conducted.

She said during her brief meeting with Pellegrino, “there appears to be a golden opportunity awaiting Rota.”

The freshman lawmaker seeks a meeting among the Rota Legislative Delegation, the Rota mayor, the Rota Municipal Council, Northern Marianas College, the Department of Public Lands, and Pellegrino to discuss and initiate the program on Rota.

The meeting has yet to be scheduled as of yesterday.

“We cannot overemphasize the necessity of a trades program to commence on our island and in doing so, we can assist our youths and people to be trained and employed in these fields, thus, becoming productive and contributing citizens in our community,” Santos told Ayuyu, chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation.

The Northern Mariana Trades Institute in Lower Base trains local residents to become skilled tradesmen and women and, in the process, improve the local labor pool and create job opportunities. The institute was established on April 1, 2008. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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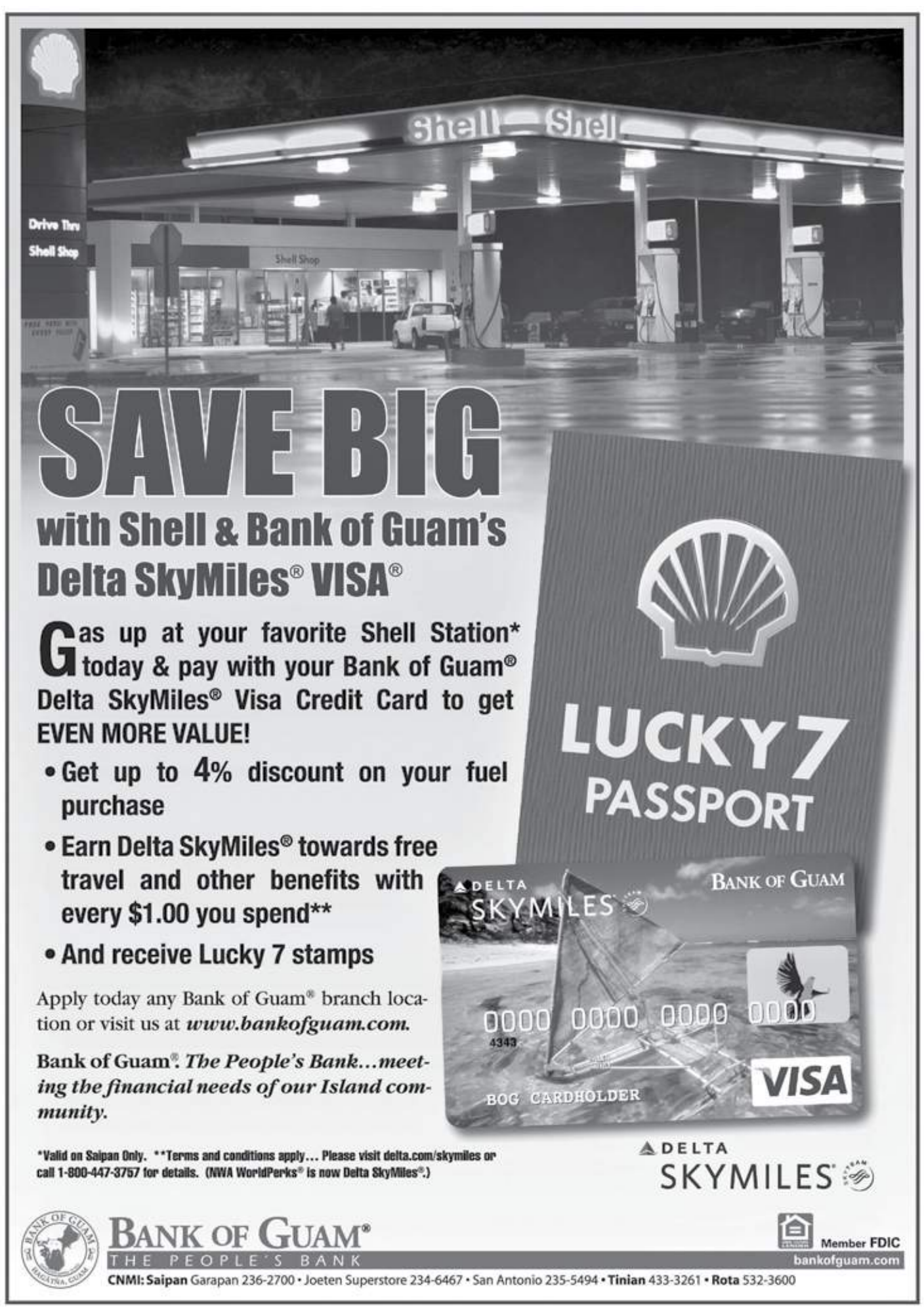
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Marshalls drop fund manager Goldman Sachs

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Marshall Islands has dropped Wall Street giant ,Goldman Sachs, from managing a 113 million US dollar trust fund, saying the move will save the government $500,000 in fees annually.

The trust fund was established in 2004 as part of the U.S. government's exit strategy from providing long-term aid to the Marshall Islands, a former colony that the U.S. wrested from Japan at the end of World War II.

The switch comes amid reports warning the Marshall Islands that unless more is invested annually and higher rates of return are earned, the fund will fall far short of meeting the nation's s needs when United States grant funding ends after 2023.

A joint United States and Marshall Islands trust fund committee voted to terminate a four-year relationship with Goldman Sachs as its fund adviser and also dropped First Hawaiian Bank as its fund trustee after six years.

ORTIZO

From Page 1

a specially designed crystal trophy.

Ortizo, this year's Mount Carmel School valedictorian, is the first Commonwealth student to be given the award, which recognizes him as a four-time national qualifier.

Additionally, he was named to the Top 30 best students in the nation in the storytelling category.

The 17-year-old son of Myrna and Roy Ortizo has been participating in forensic events since third grade at the Primary Grade Forensic Competition, which is also part of the NFL-CNMI Chapter.

His parents were elated with the latest achievement of their son and vowed their full support for all his future endeavors.

The younger Ortizo and other members of the CNMI NFL team are still in Missouri. The team competed in the national events from June 13-18.

In an interview with Ortizo yesterday, he said he is overwhelmed by the national honor. "I was very honored and proud to receive this award…and I thank all the people who supported me throughout the four years I joined the national NFL competitions. This means so much to me," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

This year, Ortizo competed in the duo interpretation—a main event—with Edward Elenzano. He also competed in the poetry and prose reading in supplemental events.

He described this year's contest as tough but he managed to advance in rounds for prose and poetry.

"The competition was pretty tough and I have great respect to all competitors here. …The whole experience with the NFL nationals was quite memorable and enjoyable. I learned a lot from here and I will surely miss it," he said.

Ortizo began going to the U.S. to compete in national events since he was in seventh grade for the then-Middle School Forensic League Competition. This was later changed to National Junior Forensic League. He was a consistent gold medalist in almost all the events he participated in these last four years.

A consistent honor student and recipient of numerous local and poetry speech competitions on island, Ortizo will be going to New York University where he wants to become a doctor and a lawyer at the same time.

"I encourage my fellow students to never give up and always do their best because determination gets you everywhere," he said.

The NFL-CNMI Chapter is headed by Harold Easton, who is currently in Lincoln, Nebraska for the thespian national competitions.

BURGLAR

From Page 1

Jeffrey Cabrera Magofna, 28, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday to face charges of burglary and criminal mischief. Bail was set at $10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on June 29.

Besides the burglary at Star Water Co. in Illiyan, investigators also obtained information that Magofna, together with other suspects, were behind the burglaries at Mt. Carmel Church in Susupe, Twins Super Market in Puerto Rico, and attorney Joe Hill's office in Susupe, said Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David.

Detective Jonathan Decena stated in his report that DPS had received a call on Friday at 3:22am from an employee of the Star Water Co. about a burglary incident.

Decena said that when police officer Edwin Aguon responded to the scene, he saw a man—later identified as Magofna—being chased by a male employee of Star Water.

Aguon activated the emergency signal device on his cruiser and pulled over to investigate.

Decena said Aguon learned that Magofna had broken into the Star Water Co. by breaking the glass wall by the cashier's booth. The noise of breaking glass woke the employee, who then chased the suspect.

Decena said that Magofna was placed under arrest after the Star Water employee identified him as the person who broke into the company building.

As Aguon was securing Magofna, he noticed a getaway vehicle—a light colored Toyota Echo—leaving the scene. Aguon issued an all-points bulletin to alert other police and help locate the getaway vehicle.

Other police officers spotted the vehicle in the parking lot of the former Classic Night Club in Garapan. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Zenita Cabrera and the passenger as her sister, Joann Camacho.

The sisters admitted to police that they dropped off Magofna at Star Water and left upon seeing a man holding a machete and cell phone chasing Magofna.

Decena said the sisters confessed that they had taken Magofna and another accomplice, Julian Sablan ***(See related story on Page 2)*** to several places, including the Mt. Carmel Church, Joe Hill's Law Office, and the general location behind Duty Free Shop.

Decena said DPS received burglary and theft cases reports from these locations, believed to be perpetrated by the same suspects.

Police had tagged Cabrera and Camacho in 2007 as behind the rash of shoplifting cases on Saipan that same year.

It was not clear yet whether Cabrera and Camacho were arrested.

PAYCHECKS

From Page 1

lease of most government paychecks during the June 18 payday, marking the first time in CNMI history that such a mass delay in the release of government wages has occurred.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos notified the Department of Finance to proceed with the release of all remaining paychecks at around 3:45pm yesterday.

Fitial and Inos, along with Cabinet members, lawmakers, judges and justices also didn't get their paychecks until yesterday, along with thousands of government employees and officials.

Shortly before 4pm yesterday, government agency representatives started arriving at Finance's Treasury Division office on Capital Hill to pick up the paychecks of their respective offices.

"This is a relief. We can now pay our bills," acting director of the Division of Parks and Recreation Linda Crisostimo told *Saipan Tribune* outside the Treasury office, right after picking up the paychecks for her colleagues.

At least two of Crisostimo's colleagues got their checks from her outside the Treasury office. Crisostimo has been working in government for 26 years.

"I'm happy and excited to get my paycheck," said a Department of Public Health employee, who also went to the Treasury to pick up the checks of non-essential employees from 10 different units at DPH.

The DPH employee said "it's not really that difficult" to receive one's paycheck only a few days late. "You just have to expect the unexpected," the 50-year-old female employee said.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said CDA remitted $1.9 million to the general fund yesterday, pursuant to a law signed by Inos on Thursday, authorizing the governor to reprogram up to $10 million in Fiscal Year 2010 for payroll.

"The Fitial administration has worked hard to make sure most paychecks will be released today," he said.

Inos, when he was acting governor last week, asked both CDA and the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide $4 million each to the central government for payroll and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. payments.

MPLT agreed to provide a $4 million loan through legislation. The House passed the bill on Friday, while the Senate has yet to act on the bill during its session on Wednesday.

Inos also earlier said that the central government was able to pay another $2 million to CUC on Friday, but another $1 million in utility bills is expected by the end of this month.

On Thursday and Friday last week, the Fitial administration said most paychecks may be released by Tuesday or Wednesday.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday he's "glad" that government employees won't have to wait until Wednesday to get paid.

Benavente earlier said it is "irresponsible" and "negligent" to wait until the last minute for the administration to meet with the Legislature to prevent a payless payday.

The former lieutenant governor said had the Fitial administration reduced the quarterly allotment at the start of Fiscal Year 2010, and not waited until after two quarters had already passed, then the financial situation won't be this severe.

The Fitial administration and other lawmakers, however, said that had other lawmakers supported a bill to reduce work hours by 10 hours every pay period, then the release of paychecks could have been avoided.

A male employee at the Revenue and Taxation Division, who was also at the Treasury office yesterday, said he and many government employees will now be able to pay their bills with the release of the checks. He has been with the division for 10 years.

Dwayne Davis, administrative officer at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, said he's also "relieved" to get his paycheck. He picked up the checks for the whole office, including that for Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan. He said three NIMO employees whose positions are federal funded got their paychecks on time on Friday.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, also came up to the Treasury office to get his paycheck shortly before the close of government hours at 4:30pm.

"It will help a lot of our government employees who didn't get their paychecks on Friday. It's a big relief to them," he said.

Dela Cruz hopes that the release of government paychecks won't be delayed again.

The government needs some $3 million for every payroll, but it was able to collect only about $1.5 million last week in time for the June 18 payday.

This amount was enough only to pay for the close to 1,000 police officers, fire fighters, corrections officers, doctors, nurses and other employees holding so-called critical positions.

Government employees whose positions are federal funded also received their paychecks on Friday.

RAPE

From Page 1

Bail was set at $100,000 cash. The preliminary hearing will be on June 28.

The two other suspects have not been arrested yet as of press time.

Detective Dennis Masga Reyes stated in his report that Santos has confessed to being one of three persons who kidnapped the victim.

The suspect allegedly told police that he only served as a lookout as the other suspect—a male juvenile—raped the victim at Tank Beach. He also told police he could not identify their third companion, Reyes said.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo presided over Santos' initial appearance in court yesterday. Chief public defender Adam Hardwicke served as Santos' counsel. Acting chief prosecutor Brian Gallagher appeared for the government.

In his report, detective Reyes said an officer responded to Kagman on Wednesday, June 16, after police received a report of an injured person near the CYC Store in Kagman III. The report was later classified as a kidnapping, rape, sexual abuse of a minor, and aggravated assault and battery case.

Reyes said investigation showed that at 6am that day, the victim had walked from her home to her aunt's house across the Kagman Community Center to get her baseball cap. After retrieving her cap, the girl walked to CYC Store to buy a drink. She then headed toward the back of CYC Store on her way to the main road leading to Kagman High School.

It was along the secondary paved highway that a dark pickup truck with several male occupants approached the girl, Reyes said. One of the truck's occupants asked the girl to give him her school bag. The girl refused and continued walking.

That was when the occupants of the vehicle jumped on her, covering her mouth and nose to prevent her from screaming. The student struggled but one of the suspects hit her on the head, knocking her out.

The victim later regained consciousness in an abandoned concrete house located several houses behind the CYC Store. Her pants were already off, she felt pain, and her nose was bloody. She believed she was sexually assaulted.

The victim told police that one of her attackers is also a student at Kagman High School while the other would always follow her and try to talk to her whenever she would walk to and from school.

Reyes said that on Thursday afternoon, he and another detective interviewed a concerned citizen who identified one of the suspects as Santos.

Reyes said the concerned citizen claimed that Santos was with two other male individuals who were standing beside a truck behind the CYC Store that Wednesday morning.

The witness said he saw one of the individuals grabbing the girl's backpack, but that he thought the boys were just playing with her.

When he later learned that the girl had been hurt, he decided to report the matter to the police.

Reyes said that Santos was interviewed at the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau on Thursday where he confessed his participation in the crime.

Reyes said that, according to Santos, he bought some items at the CYC Store when he saw his friend, with initial BH, along with the third suspect that he could not identify in the back of the store.

Santos said BH invited him to join them "pull somebody."

Santos allegedly told police that the third suspect drove the truck alongside the victim, who was walking along the gravel road behind the store.

BH grabbed the victim and forced her into the truck, while the third suspect held the back of her shirt. As the student struggled, BH repeatedly punched the girl on the face and elbowed her stomach and lower body.

Reyes said Santos claimed they brought the victim to Tank Beach in Kagman where BH raped her.

Santos allegedly told police he only served as the lookout, while the third suspect held the girl when BH raped her.

According to Santos, he was left to walk back home as BH and the third suspect forced the girl back into the truck.

Reyes said the victim sustained multiple lacerations and bruises in the face, inner thighs and abrasions in her lower abdomen.

Reyes said a doctor found evidence consistent with Santos' claims that the girl was raped.

Japan delegates, Vietnam consul general in Micronesia chiefs summit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Five delegates from Japan and a consul general of Vietnam in San Francisco will be joining some 100 presidents, governors and delegates from around the region at the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit on Wednesday to Friday.

The summit, to be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, aims to consult on common issues of concern that include healthcare, recycling, regional tourism, military buildup, airport improvements, renewable energy, and workforce needs.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the five participants from Japan are ranking officials from Fujifilm Medical Corp., Aichi Children's Health and Medical Center, and Hibin Planning Co. Ltd.

"The officials of Fujifilm Corp. will also be giving a presentation under the Summit's Health Committee," he said.

Demapan also said that Le Hung, consul general of Vietnam in San Francisco, is also taking part in the summit.

Most dignitaries from the Micronesian region and the United States are expected to arrive today, in time for tomorrow's opening of the three-day summit.

Demapan

The summit brings together three presidents and six governors in the Micronesian region, including Palau President Johnson Toribiong, Marshall Islands President Jurelang Zedkaia, Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, Kosrae Gov. Robert Weilbacher, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, and Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal.

Fitial will be delivering his welcoming remarks on the first day of the summit. Other chief executives will also be delivering their remarks.

Committee presentations will start on Wednesday afternoon, including presentations by the committees on health, regional invasive species, recycling initiative, and regional tourism.

Presentations will continue on Thursday, including an update on the military expansion assistance in the insular areas and a roundup of the airport improvement program in the region. Other presentations will tackle the Micronesian Challenge, and the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future.

On Friday, the chief executives will approve the site of the next summit, as well as the signing of the 13th Joint Communique.

The three presidents and six governors will also be delivering their closing remarks on Friday.

Lunch and dinner receptions are sponsored by the CNMI Office of the Governor, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, RadioCom, CNMI Department of Public Health, and Nanyo Co. Ltd.

Another prosecutor resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division has resigned, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Acting chief prosecutor Brian Gallagher disclosed that assistant attorney general William Downer has resigned and that his last day at the Criminal Division is this Friday.

With the departure of Downer, Gallagher said the Criminal Division will only have four prosecutors, including himself and two new recruits.

Rosemond B. Santos resigned as chief prosecutor on Friday.

Downer told *Saipan Tribune* he is leaving OAG to return to the California Bay Area to be closer to his family there.

Downer has lived on Saipan for nearly five years. He has served with the OAG's Criminal Division for one year and nine months.

"I have loved living on Saipan. As you know, I love the ocean and ocean sports such as paddling and surfing. I have met wonderful people here and formed friendships that will probably last a lifetime," he said.

Downer arrived in October 2005 to work as a law clerk for Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman. He said Wiseman welcomed him with the greatest hospitality and treated him like family.

"I regard Judge Wiseman not only as a former boss and mentor, but as a true friend who always helped me to keep matters in perspective. I will miss him and others from Saipan tremendously," he said.

Downer said working as a prosecutor was very fulfilling. He said he entered the legal field because he truly believes that the strength of a democratic republic relies on a robust fidelity to the rule of law, and that all people, including government officials, should be held to the letter of the law.

Downer said he believes that all prosecutors have the dual duty of only prosecuting when they have a good faith belief that they can prove their burden beyond a reasonable doubt.

"I hope my work on Saipan has exemplified these objectives," he said.

As a prosecutor, Downer said, he confronted challenges that were temporarily frustrating. "However. not one comes to mind as particularly vexing."

"Like any challenge or obstacle, I learned more from tackling the challenges than from the easy victory. I learned that a little bit of empathy and civility goes a long way toward creating positive outcomes out of the ordinarily negative circumstances that introduce people to the criminal justice system," he added.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on June 22, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before June 22.

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Zoning bewails passage of 'special interest' rezoning law

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board expressed its opposition yesterday to a section of a recently enacted local law that rezones certain portions of Tanapag, I-Denni, Chalan Kiya, and Oleai.

Introduced by Reps. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), House Local Bill 17-2, D2 is now Saipan Local Law 17-2 after acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed it on June 17.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Section 4 of the new law suspends penalties resulting from the violation of provisions of the zoning law in certain areas.

Ogumoro added that the rezones identified in the new law appear to be "almost a total rezoning of the area."

However, Ogumoro said that the board is not aware of the passage of Local Law 17-2.

According to Ogumoro, the Office of the Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review had advised them on June 14 that they have until July 5 to comment on the bill before any action is taken on it.

On June 18, the board wrote a letter to Gov. Benigno Fitial explaining the reasons why they oppose HLB 17-2, D2.

In the letter, the board described the maps submitted with HLB 17-2 by the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation as "very confusing" and does not make clear the areas covered by the proposed rezones in Section 4 of the bill.

"These incomprehensible maps should not become part of the law," the letter said.

The board noted that the delegation did not consult the zoning administrator on technical matters. "She could have assisted in preparing clear zoning maps that would leave no ambiguity about the rezone," said the board.

The board also maintained that Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has family members who own property in the rezoned areas.

Torres introduced the floor amendments to rezone certain areas from "village residential" to "village commercial," allowing several businesses to operate in these areas.

The board particularly raised its objection against "the provision requiring the Treasury to reimburse certain penalties lawfully imposed and collected by the Zoning Office."

It cited as an example Torres' letter to the Zoning Office on March 12 asking them to revoke the notice of violation issued to Servino & Associates, as identified in Section 4 of HLB 17-2, D2.

Ogumoro emphasized that without clarification of these issues, the law will significantly impact the affected areas.

2 CPA projects await DLNR approval on submerged land lease

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two important seaport projects of the Commonwealth Ports Authority are awaiting the decision of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over submerged lands in the CNMI.

CPA board director Benigno M. Sablan, who chairs the seaports committee, recently asked DLNR Secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz to issue a "consent letter" that will allow CPA to continue its lease agreement with Marianas Shipyard, which has a two-year submerged land lease agreement with the ports agency.

The same consent letter from DLNR will also be used to approve a lease for Worldwide Salvage Inc., which proposes a ship disposal program in the CNMI.

Sablan disclosed that based on the board's review, CPA has not been generating any money from Marianas Shipyard because the lease agreement—which was approved by a previous CPA board—is considered "bad lease or illegal" because it covers submerged land, to which the CPA has no authority.

Sablan said they want DLNR to give its consent so that CPA can make a legal demand on Marianas Shipyard to pay for its lease. CPA owns the property but it has no authority over the affected lot because it is a submerged land.

The lack of a favorable response from Dela Cruz before July 15 would mean the termination of the Marianas Shipyard lease agreement.

"I am trying to ask DLNR to consent and say that our lease agreement [with Marianas Shipyard] is good and we can continue it. We just want to have the correct party to consent that it is okay for CPA to go ahead with our lease because we're in the same government and we're trying to generate revenue," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan disclosed that his committee has been working on the issue for six months now but has yet to get a concrete response from DLNR.

"If nothing happens by July 15, we will terminate the lease agreement," he said.

Sablan wrote DLNR's Dela Cruz about the matter on June 11. CPA legal counsel Robert Torres was also part of the ongoing discussion, along with DLNR lawyers.

Due to the agency's financial constraints, the CPA board has instructed management to aggressively work on its collectibles to generate revenue for its operations.

Summer at the Tinian Public Library

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Tinian Public Library offers books, magazines, and other print materials, including books of gardening.

TINIAN—Summer has begun, and the Tinian Public Library is ready for the hundreds of students who will be flocking to the library for some reading and some activities over the next couple of months.

The library's popular books these days, according to its staff, are the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* books. The *Harry Potter* series are seven fantasy novels written by the English author J.K. Rowling. The *Twilight* series are four vampire-based romance novels by American author Stephenie Meyer.

Although there are several copies of these series at the library for interested patrons, the library staff are also dealing with book thefts. "Some books never return to the library," said Carmen Dela Cruz, librarian. Plagued with missing books, less books are available for other patrons, according to the library staff.

The Tinian Public Library offers books, magazines, and other print materials. There is an extensive children's section and public computers at no cost.

For Maria, a regular patron, she enjoys the gardening section, where she can find information about orchids to roses. "I am focusing on gardening this summer, and the books at the Tinian library are really great," she stated.

As for John, his interest is in the World War II section. "There are a lot of great books for my pleasure reading and for research here," he stated.

Several activities are being planned at the library for the summer. For more information, call the Tinian Public Library at 433-0504. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2010

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately $409,971 from the U.S. National Park Service for Fiscal Year 2010. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to the submission of the grant application, the Division of Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities, concerns, projects, and activities it would like to undertake relating to Historic Preservation.

We need your comments particularly on such aspects as:

1). What do you think we should be focusing more of this year?
2). What particular community projects do you believe is important that we should try to fund?
3). What topics should we focus when publishing our ethnographic or archaeological books?
4). What particular areas do you want our office to concentrate on surveying or in the identification of cultural materials?
5). What aspects of the program do you think we should strengthen?

The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY 2010. We would like to know what you think about them.

- Conducting archaeological survey and preparation of NRHP Nomination of Japanese Defense Complex, Mananana Region, Rota, CNMI
- Reprinting all HPO's archaeological and ethnographic collection
- Implementing and maintaining its Geographic Information System
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Provide a symposium on historic preservation policies and identification of cultural matierals
- Educate the CNMI's children about historic preservation through school visits, lectures and field trips.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than June 30, 2010.. Written comments should be address to the Director, CNMI HPO, Division of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, P. O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to proysablan@cnmihpo.net or rhr@cnmihpo.net. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

ISLAND	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Tinian	Tinian Youth Center	6/17/10	6:30 p.m.
Saipan	Multi Purpose	6/18/10	6:00 p.m.
Rota	Round House	6/24/10	6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/S/ Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan Jr.
Director, CNMI Historic Preservation Office

Concurred by: /S/ MELVIN L. O. FAISAO
SECRETARY, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DOC-108

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 15, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PSS GREEN ENERGY PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS, CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONE MANDATORY WALKTHROUGH WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 24, 2010 STARTING AT 9:00 A.M. AT SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, SAIPAN, CNMI.

QUESTION MUST ME SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO MR. CHRIS FRYLING, AIA, PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cfryling@cnmiarra.net OR FAX TO 1+(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN JULY 06, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY, DPW

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP10-DOC-109

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 15, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF THE PSS GREEN ENERGY PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS, CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY, DPW

Senate sets self-imposed deadlines to pass 2011 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) offered the House of Representatives with self-imposed deadlines to be able to timely pass a balanced Fiscal Year 2011 budget to prevent a government shutdown and payless paydays.

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), in a separate interview, said they are open to the Senate suggestions.

Manglona said he would ask the House Ways and Means Committee to come up with a draft FY 2011 budget bill by July 15. He also hopes that the bill will be passed by the end of July.

"That will provide the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and the full Senate until the end of August [to review and pass the bill]," he said, adding that in case the bill needs to be returned to the House, there will still be enough time.

FY 2011 begins on Oct. 1, 2010 and ends on Sept. 31, 2011.

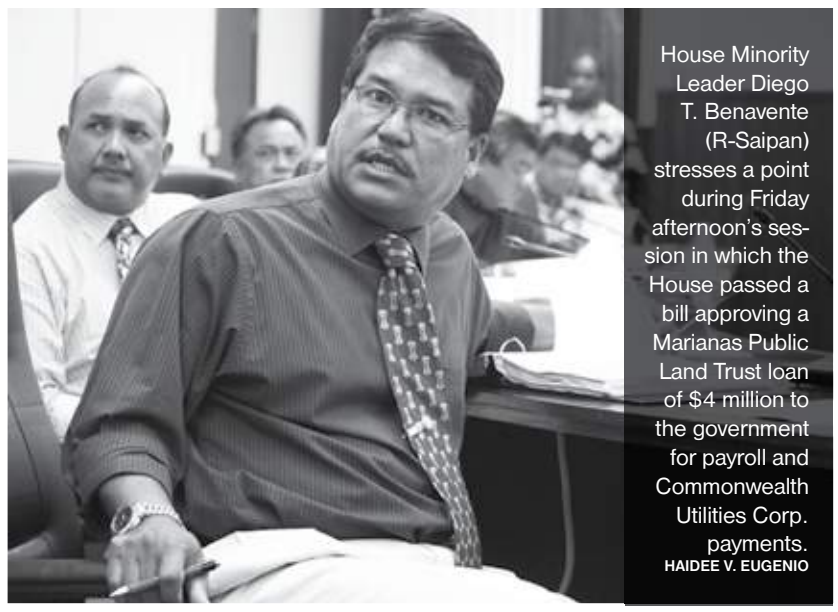
A constitutional amendment removed the provision for a continuing budget resolution and bars any withdrawals from the general funds except through legislative appropriations. Without a timely passed balanced budget, the government will be forced to shut down. The constitutional amendment also suspends the salaries of lawmakers if no budget is passed on time.

Basa said his House Ways and Means Committee targets to introduce a budget bill during the next session.

"I like the Senate's timetable," Basa told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that his committee will be working closely with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Manglona said he recognizes that cutting agencies' budgets during these hard financial times and given the government's limited resources is a "tough job."

The House already passed on May 25 a concurrent resolution approving Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget proposal for 2011.



House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) stresses a point during Friday afternoon's session in which the House passed a bill approving a Marianas Public Land Trust loan of $4 million to the government for payroll and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. payments.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial, in his April 1 budget submission to the Legislature, identified a total of $149.371 million in projected resources for FY 2011.

Of this figure, $132 million is available for government operations. This is lower than the revised FY 2010 revenue of $137 million.

Basa's House Concurrent Resolution 17-2, HD1 approves revenues and resources of the CNMI, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for FY 2011.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced a floor amendment that lowered the concurrent resolution's original figure of $149.371 million to $149.171 million, due to the lowered interest earnings estimated by the Marianas Public Land Trust. Yumul also added a "deficit reduction" item.

The Senate deferred acting on this concurrent resolution during its June 16 session to be able to update and review the figures further.

Manglona, during its June 16 session, said the Senate will tackle this measure in its next session, scheduled for Wednesday.

Other lawmakers said the delay in the release of government paychecks on Friday gives a preview of what's to come if the House and Senate fail to pass a budget. Other said had the Senate passed the House bill cutting work hours to reduce government spending, the government could have averted the delayed payroll. The Senate said its alternative of raising taxes and fees should have increased government revenue.

NMC CNMI-wide internships for high school juniors, seniors

Incoming high school juniors and seniors can now apply for the 2010 High School Summer Internship Program at the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service. Positions are available for CREES' Aquaculture, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Food Science, and 4H Youth Program.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, should have an interest in the mentioned fields, and must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher (current transcript).

The program, which offers positions on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, will take place from July 19 through Aug. 13, 2010. The deadline to submit applications and required documents is July 2, 2010.

For more information, contact the CREES office at 234-5498 ext. 1705 or 1707. Applications can be picked up at the CREES office in Building F (Saipan campus) or at the Tinian and Rota administration offices. They can also be downloaded at http://crees.org/news.asp.

NMC

Interns from the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service take time to pose for a group photo during a research activity. The high school students collected insect samples as part of the NMC-CREES' High School Summer Internship Program in 2009. The program offers students hands-on experience in the various NMC-CREES' offices such as Entomology, Aquaculture, Plant Pathology, Food Science, and the 4H Youth Program. Applications are now being accepted for summer 2010.

The internship program is made possible by funds from the ADAP Professional Development Project and Resident Instruction/CARIPAC Project. ***(NMC)***

Santos says she accepted OAG Capital Hill position

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rosemond Blanco Santos said yesterday she accepted a new position within the Office of the Attorney General on Capital Hill.

Santos

In an e-mail, Santos said the new position was discussed during a meeting with Attorney General Edward Buckingham on Wednesday.

Santos did not specify the new position.

She said she packed up her belongings at the Criminal Division after she met and conversed with the "new chief prosecutor" on Friday.

Santos said her letter of resignation, dated and submitted on May 21, 2010, was initially rejected.

She said she learned through the *Saipan Tribune*'s Monday's issue that Buckingham accepted her resignation over the weekend.

With respect to report that she had an argument with Buckingham, Santos said arguments and/ or disagreements in the workplace "are not unheard of." Differences, she added, could always be ironed out.

"My best wishes and prayers are always with the people of the Marianas and the CNMI, my home!" Santos said.

Buckingham confirmed Santos' resignation with *Saipan Tribune* on Sunday and thanked her for her services to the OAG and the Commonwealth.

Buckingham did not discuss the specifics of the resignation.

Buckingham appointed Santos as chief prosecutor in January 2010. She joined the OAG after a failed re-election bid for Saipan's Precinct 5 under the Republican Party in the Nov. 7 election.

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Waldo back at PSS as finance director

After more than two years of being out of the Public School System, Richard Waldo is back as its director of finance—the same position he left vacant in December 2007.

Waldo officially resumed his post as the system's top financial officer yesterday. He was hired for a two-year contract in the amount of $65,000 per annum.

Since retiring on Dec. 31, 2007, Waldo has been working as a teacher at the Saipan Southern High School.

In an interview yesterday, Waldo described the feeling of being back at his old position as "excellent."

In light of the limited budget that PSS has been getting from the central government every year, Waldo vowed to work for the survival of the system.

"Surely, PSS will survive… and we will make it," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

PSS has been operating without a finance director since 2007 when Waldo retired during the tenure of former education commissioner Dr. David Borja.

Waldo started working for PSS as acting director of finance in 2001 until December 2006. He was then formally appointed as director of finance until he retired in 2007.

Waldo obtained his business management degree from the University of California Los Angeles and obtained his CPA in the State of New Hampshire. He also has a bachelor's degree in political science and history and has a master's degree in business management. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

WIA summer youth program kicks off today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2010 Summer Youth Employment Training Program of the Workforce Investment Agency starts off with its student orientation on Saipan, to be held today at the American Memorial Park.

Frances A. Torres, WIA case manager, said the Summer Youth Employment Training Program aims to prepare the students for the workforce by letting them experience being in an actual workplace for a month.

As part of the orientation, Torres will give instructions to students about WIA and its rules governing the program.

WIA contracted the Northern Marianas College to conduct the work readiness aspect of the program. This encompasses work ethics, telephone etiquette, and customer service.

The U.S. Department of Labor will brief the students about youth in the workforce.

The student orientation will last until Thursday, June 24.

WIA will be conducting a separate orientation for the 41 offices from both public and private sectors that are part of this year's program on Friday morning.

The case managers will discuss with these employers the forms and documents required by WIA from both the participating students and employers. The students will meet with their employers on Friday afternoon.

The orientation for Tinian and Rota will be held on June 28 and 29, respectively.

Significant drop

A total of 575 students on Saipan will participate in WIA's summer program this year: 287 participants in the first phase and 288 in the second phase.

According to case manager Barbara Flores Santos, WIA divided the training phases into two to accommodate more students.

The summer training program for the first phase is on July 6 to August 2. The second phase follows from August 3 to 30.

Last year, there were 904 students on Saipan that availed of the program. This translates to about 47 percent decrease in the number of participants for 2010.

Santos attributes the program's lack of funding to the significant drop in the number of participants. She said the additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 helped them accommodate 200 more students for the program.

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune,* is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The person featured in last week's photo was identified as Maria "Marilyn" Hofschneider Aguon. Photo taken on Tinian in the early 1970s. Identified by Alvin Hofschneider.

RP Consulate continues one-Sunday-a-month services

The Philippine Consulate General in Saipan released yesterday the schedule for its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services for the second half of 2010.

The Consulate office will be open from 9am to 4pm without lunch breaks on July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, and Dec. 19.

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig said the Sunday schedule aims to accommodate Filipino workers on Saipan who cannot go to the Consulate on weekdays.

The schedule is a continuation of the previously released schedule, which covered January to June of 2010.

According to Macaraig, the number of Filipinos who avail of consular services on Sunday is "better than daily average" since many of them work from Mondays to Saturdays.

Macaraig said the consular services from July to September are scheduled on the last Sunday of the month.

However, the consular services from October to December are slated on the second to the last Sunday of the month. This is to avoid getting in the way of long weekends brought by holidays on these months, Macaraig explained.

For inquiries, contact the Philippine Consulate at 234-1850 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com. ***(Clarissa David)***

Ex-French Polynesia president guilty

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—France's highest court has convicted French Polynesia's veteran politician Gaston Flosse of corruption, upholding a decision by the Tahiti court of appeal that he be given a one-year suspended jail sentence.

Flosse, who is both a member of the French Senate and a member of the French Polynesian assembly, has also been ordered to pay a $12,000 fine.

The conviction stems from him misusing public funds following the 2004 general election night when he arranged for a large reception for his party at the presidential palace.

However, after the election defeat, he wanted the new government to pay the bill but it refused, so once he had regained power, he settled the account with public funds.

While convicting him, the Paris court threw out the appeal court decision that he in addition be barred from holding public office for a year and referred that aspect of the decision to an appeal court in Paris to be rejudged at a time yet to be set.

Flosse's lawyer told reporters that for the veteran politician to be able to stay in office is more than just a little victory.

Last week, Flosse's lawyer won a case in the constitutional court, which voided a clause that automatically renders corruption convicts ineligible for five years from holding office.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 22, 1999

14 more charged with alien smuggling

Fourteen more suspected alien smugglers have been charged at the federal court in connection with attempts to bring hundreds of undocumented aliens into Guam last May. Federal Court Judge Alex Munson issued yesterday the warrants of arrest for the 14 crew members of separate vessels that allegedly ferried aliens from China's Fujian province. The new case filed by the US Attorney's Office has brought to 30 the total number of Chinese nationals facing charges of attempted alien smuggling at the US District Court on Saipan. Investigations conducted by US immigration special agent Timothy Isenhart revealed that each of the undocumented migrants paid the crew men 15,000 Chinese RMB in exchange for their trip to Guam, where they had hoped to get asylum.

Govt told to hasten prison repair

Outgoing Chief Public Defender Harvey Palefsky is not leaving his post without making his final appeal for the government to fix the jail. "The condition of our jail facilities violate the rights of those incarcerated, " said Palefsky, who is stepping out of the Public Defender's office today. Last February the US and CNMI governments signed a consent degree in which local and federal officials agreed to address the poor condition of the Susupe jail, which former Chief Public Defender Dan DeRienzo had referred to as "medieval dungeon."

June 22, 2000

Senate sidesteps 3-year limit

The lifting of the three-year stay limit imposed on nonresident workers in the CNMI will not happen in the very near future as a Senate committee reviewing the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform bill has decided to take it out of the proposal. A separate discussion on the issue may be conducted, but it will not be part of the legislation seeking to repeal some of the labor and immigration reforms implemented by the government over the last two years. The decision was made after the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs noted that the residency restrictions on guest workers under Public Law 11-69 do not pose "immediate danger" to businesses.

Ban on FSM food stays

The ban against entry of raw or cooked food items from the Federated States of Micronesia into the CNMI will remain in effect until the reported cholera outbreak in that country is cleared by local health officials here. This was the statement of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday when asked by reporters on the status of the investigation into the food poisoning incident that occurred at a wedding reception last Saturday. He disclosed that he has yet been given result of "the final analysis of the type of virus" that downed more than 90 guests, with one reported fatality, at the occasion celebrating the Nena-Taisacan wedding. "The Department of Public Health is still [looking into it]," the governor told reporters.

June 22, 2001

On CIP Contractors told to wait

The Commonwealth Development Authority yesterday reminded construction industry players that it takes time before a decision is made on which Capital Improvement Project will be started first. CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio defended the Department of Public Works against criticisms hurled by the CNMI Contractors Association, over what the business group said was the department's turtle-paced action in implementing CIPs. "They don't probably know that it takes time to place the proper perspective in choosing which projects should be done," Tenorio stated. Tenorio was referring to allegations made by the Contractors Association, which criticized the DPW's seeming nonchalance in fast-tracking the implementation of $120-million worth of infrastructure projects.

Customs collections drop 14 pct.

The Customs Division reported a 14-percent decrease in collections last month, the lowest total for the month of May since 1997. Last month, customs collected $5.2 million in excise tax, user's fee and miscellaneous levies compared to $6.17 million during the same period last year. Seaport Branch Manager Captain Juan B. Cepeda attributed the low collection figure to the slowdown of the Commonwealth economy. He said local businesses are not bringing in as much cargo now. Cepeda noted that excise tax collected by customs fell by more than 22 percent to $1.7 million last month, from $2.2 million during the same period last year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cancer survivor support meeting today

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting scheduled for today, Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, starting at 5:30pm. This month's survivor support meeting will include a presentation from Dr. Tony Stearns on the importance of diet and healthy lifestyle choices as they relate to cancer prevention and survival, followed by a survivors-only discussion. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo at 236-8728 or e-mail joanne.ogo@gmail.com.

KagHS report card day Wednesday

Kagman High School is reminding all parents and guardians of its students that report card day is set for Wednesday, June 23, from 8am to 3pm. For more information, call the Kagman High School office at 237-3840. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM set June 21-25

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, will be conducting 23 EBS military training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla from June 21 to 25, from 7am to 8pm. Fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay away during the time and date indicated. For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam's front gate reopens

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam's front gate reopened this yesterday, June 21, at noon and will again be open round the clock for motorists authorized to access the base.

The back gate will remain open until 5:30pm today. As of Tuesday, June 22, the back gate hours will revert to 5:30am-8am and 3pm-5:30pm Monday through Friday and closed on weekends. For more information, contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2663. ***(PR)***

Hopwood summer school schedule

This year's summer school program at the Hopwood Junior High School will start on June 29, 2010, Tuesday. Classes are from 8am to 12pm. Food will not be provided, so parents are encouraged to provide snacks for their child. Bus services will be made available for qualified students, for the duration of the program. For more information, contact Terry at 237-3421/237-3422. Registration for incoming students to Hopwood Jr. High School will be from June 23 to July 23, from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm at the registrar's office. ***(PR)***

NMC 2009 Alumni Survey

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all 2009 graduates to participate in an online survey that will be open until June 30, 2010. The survey questions are designed to track and measure graduates' educational pursuits and employment since graduation. The College will be using the collected data to improve its programs in order to better meet the educational and workforce needs of the community. To get access to the survey, contact NMC institutional researcher Lisa Hacskaylo at 234-5498 Ext. 1029 or lisah@nmcnet.edu or NMC Alumni president Jack Kiyoshi at Ext. 1021 or jackk@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Free fitness classes at Kagman center

The Kagman Komunidat Association is conducting free fitness classes at the Kagman Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm. Only 15 participants will be accommodated per class so make your reservations soon. Participants must bring an exercise mat, sweat towel, exercise shoes, and drinking water. Any hotels or businesses that wish to donate mats can contact KKA. To reserve a spot, vall Greg DL Guerrero at 285-4007 or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-068

"GENERAL REPAIR WORK FOR SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair Work at San Antonio Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on June 15, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $66.45.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 28, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at San Antonio Elementary School Cafeteria in San Antonio, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-068, and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:00 a.m. local time July 21, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on July16, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or email to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 16, 2010 and must be received no later than July 27, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 9:00 a.m., July 29, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-069

"GENERAL REPAIR WORK FOR HOPWOOD JR. HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair Work at Hopwood Jr. High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on June 15, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $68.60.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on June 28, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at Hopwood Jr. High School Library in Chalan Piao, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-069, and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:30 a.m., local time, July 16, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:30 a.m. local time July 21, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

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This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-078

"PURCHASE OF FIVE 66 PASSENGER SCHOOL BUSES"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Purchase of Five 66 Passenger School Buses.

Specification are available at the PSS Procurement Office on the 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building Beginning on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, or by faxed request to 664.3791.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "PSS IFB 10-078" containing one (1) original and two (2) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Monday, July 5, 2010 at 9:00am. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions should be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, PSS Procurement Officer via fax or e-mail to robert.florian@cnmipss.org.

This purchase is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation/FTA.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

Name elite corps to develop energy independence for US

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may contact him via the Web at http://www.mastalk.com.*

Unsolicited, I've written a speech for President Obama:

My fellow Americans, nearly 50 years ago, President Kennedy promised to send a man to the moon and back by the end of the decade—not because it was easy, but because it was hard. And we did.

Twenty-one years before that, President Roosevelt authorized another urgent national effort—this one more clandestine than the race to the moon. Its completion brought about the end of World War II.

In each of those instances, presidential initiative inspired the most-skilled Americans to tackle a problem of immense proportion. Today, we trace their footsteps by establishing yet another elite core of our most innovative and intelligent minds. Their task: to usher our country into an era of energy independence.

For nearly eight weeks, crude oil has been flowing—at the rate of tens of thousands of barrels a day—from a ruptured pipe to the surface of the Gulf of Mexico and toward the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The damage, still impossible to fully comprehend, will no doubt be severe and far-reaching. A camera has captured the flood, streaming it from 5,000 feet below the surface to computer screens five inches from our faces. The current crisis has led us to this tipping point.

I have authorized the formation and initial funding of an unprecedented renewal effort—an effort whose goal will be to wean us off the crack pipe of foreign oil, to calm the cravings that follow, and to deliver the United States of America to the sobriety of energy independence.

This push will be manned by the very best and brightest minds this country can offer. From the Silicon Valley to the Space Coast, we are recruiting academics and engineers, scientists and CEOs, programmers and Ph.D.s—all with the goal of accelerating America toward new, clean, and safe forms of energy. While I would like to have seen a solution to our oil dependence arise from the private sector, no fix has been forthcoming, and so I am using the power of this office to marshal the effort. I am, however, involving the private sector's most talented people from a variety of disciplines.

I have asked Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, both of whom are here with us today, to launch the effort, along with Sergey Brin, cofounder of Google; Steven Levitt, author and economist at the University of Chicago; and T. Boone Pickens, chairman of BP Capital.

Their effort will replicate the structure, determination, willpower, and scientific innovation of the Manhattan Project. Between 1942 and 1945, about 125,000 Americans scattered throughout numerous factories and labs across the country—including 5,000 in Los Alamos, N.M.—contributed to the creation of the atomic bomb. They were the most proficient scientists and engineers in the country. They worked together and lived together, totally immersed in the task before them. Today, we are launching a similarly comprehensive effort.

This work will be funded by a partnership of public and private entities. We have committed $1 billion each from the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and from the Environmental Protection Agency. Construction of a headquarters is already un-

See ELITE CORPS on Page 13

An analysis of the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: *The following is Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon Blas Camacho's testimony on House Bill 17-56, the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010, at the June 11, 2010, public hearing conducted by the House Committee on Commerce & Tourism. Due to its length, it will be published as a six-part series.*

Second of a six-part series

Moreover, HB 17-56 purports to represent *a desire of person of Northern Marianas descent* in allowing foreign investors "to own and operate a five-star hotel and casino with a convention center, shopping, restaurants, entertainments, and other amenities" for visitors." HB 17-56 even makes a sweeping generalization that an "NMD casino can make Saipan as the most attractive and favorite tourist destination" in the entire Pacific, "for fun, relax and enjoy (sic)."

In a nutshell, HB 17-56 advances a near monopolistic economic belief (or *public monopolies* like the U.S. postal services, Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae) in business and investment contrary to the capitalistic principle of free market enterprise, limiting Saipan casino license to three casino licenses—two to be issued, owned and operated by foreigners; one licensed exclusively in perpetuity to an NMD corporation; and transferring responsibility and authority for the licensing of *all existing and new* poker, pachinko slot machine and related games (already addressed in existing statutes) exclusively to the direct and indirect authority and jurisdiction of three autonomous and independent agencies of local government receiving publicly generated funds, namely the Saipan Casino Commission, working in concert with the Saipan Municipal Treasury, and the Saipan Mayor's Office. The two new agencies of Saipan local government implicate Article VI, Section 8(a).

On the other hand, the Saipan Mayor's Office is already a constitutionally established agency of local government pursuant to Article VI, Section 2 of the constitution.

Arguably, HB 17-56 claims the Saipan Casino Commission and the Saipan Municipal Treasury are not to be construed as agencies or instrumentalities of local government. Yet both agencies are wholly autonomous in character, action, and organization, each characterized by delineated lawful authority, duties and responsibilities. Both agencies also receive their entire operational funds exclusively from *publicly generated and legislatively appropriated public funds*, just as the Saipan Mayor's Office. Together, all three agencies of local government receive public funds sourced from a single bank checking account, to be known as the Saipan Casino Fund and administered by the Saipan Municipal Treasurer, acting independently of the Saipan Mayor or the office, vested with the unambiguous authority over hiring, spending, budgeting, reprogramming, etc., including having a concurrent authority over the hiring of commission staff and exclusive authority over budget preparation for the Mayor, Treasury, and the Commission for submission to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

B. Legislative History

House Bill 17-56 appears to be a postmortem rendition of previously rejected referenda on casino gaming for Saipan and the first preemptive attempt at consolidating the jurisdiction and authority over other forms of gaming activities away from the Department of Commerce and Finance to the Saipan Casino Commission.

It is also noteworthy that HB 17-56 mandates the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to provide the initial funding or seed money for the operations and activities of the Commission [re. article II, section 10(a)] and the Saipan Municipal Treasury [article II, section 16]. The requirement to fund a non-governmental entity, if the commission in fact is, as it is stated in the bill, appears unprecedented.

On the other hand, requiring the commission, a presumed non-government entity, to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act in promulgating rules and regulations is also unprecedented, much less vesting in a non-government entity broad subpoena, investigative hearing, detention and enforcement powers, including taxing authority, much less the right to an independent checking account for publicly generated funds would appear to make the commission a conduit of local or quasi government agency, if it is not entirely an arm of local government, and therefore subject to requirements in Article VI, section 8(a) of the Constitution. This is evident, for instance, by the regulatory and quasi-judicial authority vested in the commission in Article II, Section II (d) on promulgated regulations, which empowers the body to "use such rules and regulations to interpret, enlarge upon, define, further define, or refine any provision of this Act."

To be continued.

Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Scams and victims

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

You can't cheat an honest man.

—W. C. Fields

Fields, a great comedian of the '30s and '40s, neatly summarized the true core of all confidence scams with the title of his 1939 film, *You Can't Cheat an Honest Man*. All confidence tricksters depend on the victim's own greed to hook him into the scam that cheats him out of his money. Perhaps the most commonly known today is the notorious "Nigerian scam," also called the "419 fraud" for the section of the Nigerian criminal code it violates. The victim receives a letter, a fax or, most often today, an e-mail, stating that the sender possesses a hidden, usually illegal, hoard of money, and needs the help of an honest person to launder the money. The sender promises huge profits from this illicit partnership—and only needs your detailed bank account information to start sending the funds. You can guess what happens next.

Historically, most confidence scams go unreported, because the victims are too embarrassed to admit they have been taken by a story that, looked at objectively, is wildly improbable. When the victim, or mark, does come forward, our sympathy is usually diluted by our laughter at the mark's foolishness. It's a socially acceptable form of blaming the victim.

That's all well and good when the mark's greed is for money. But what about when the "greed" is for a spiritual goal, like the elderly pensioner scammed by a glib televangelist? She wants only to do good and, at worst, increase her spiritual riches. Only the most crass observer laughs at these victims.

And—the point of today's column—what about the victims of immigration scams, where the mark is simply looking for a better life, in a better place? At the far end of the scale are the operations involving illegal immigrants, which often pose real risks to the life and health of the snakeheads' customers. Remember the two shiploads of people intercepted by the Coast Guard and briefly interned on Tinian over a decade ago? No one here was very sympathetic, in large part because most people resented the CNMI being used as a holding cell to keep the boats' passengers from applying for asylum once inside U.S. borders.

Today's column is not about this kind of wannabe immigrant. Rather, it is about the people we have been seeing more frequently, who have believed fables based on the idea that the CNMI-federal immigration transition provides a path to legal immigration. Some think that they are exploiting loopholes cleverly discovered by the confidence tricksters, and others just don't know U.S. immigration doesn't work the way they have been told. All have spent substantial sums of money, typically between $10,000 and $30,000, sometimes more. Except for some high-end "investors," this money represents life savings plus everything they could borrow. All had hopes of legal immigration. All have been cheated, and many have inadvertently become illegal here.

The Basic Scenario: Entry Before Nov. 28, 2009

The one thing all of these people have in common is lawful entry into the CNMI before the immigration transition date, Nov. 28, 2009. Some came on tourist permits, some as business visitors, and some as students. Many obtained umbrella permits because their entry permits had expiration dates after Nov. 28. A special class obtained either long-term business entry permits (two-year permits) or Certificates of Foreign Investment (indefinite term) prior to Nov. 28. All were told that if they were present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, or at least had obtained CNMI status by then, they could stay in the CNMI and then go to the rest of the U.S., either now or after some period of time.

The Phantom Investor

We started getting inquiries from would-be investors, most often after their money was spent on visas and investments, before Nov. 28. (Note that we distinguish this class of "investors" from business investors whose investment strategy is not focused primarily on some hoped-for immigration benefit.) Because the CNMI Department of Commerce closed applications for new two-year permits last Aug. 21, many of these people had applied for, and obtained, the indefinite investment status, after paying the government application fee of $10,000 each. The typical investment was part of a commercial building, an apartment house, or hotel. (Again, during this period there were also valid investments made in similar projects.)

The CNRA—the "federalization law"—created a special class of "CNMI-E2" investors. The CNMI-E2 was designed to "grandfather" existing CNMI investor-class permittees into a CNMI-only status that would last during the initial transition period, expiring Dec. 31, 2014. The final CNMI-E2 regulations have not been published, and therefore the status is not available yet, but it is clear that it will allow the holders to be in the CNMI only, and no other part of the U.S., and it is not a steppingstone to a U.S. visa.

CNMI-E2 will not be available to these last-minute investors. The rules proposed by USCIS on Sept. 14, 2009, contained some curve ball requirements not present in CNMI law. The two most important: (1) the investor had to be present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, and (2) had to have spent at least 51 percent of each year (after receiving CNMI investor status) physically present in the CNMI.

So: there are now quite a number of investors, many from China, who have investments but neither CNMI or U.S. immigration status, and, for the most part, none available.

The Hopeful Student

Perhaps the most sympathetic group are those who came as students with one of three expectations, that they would: (a) obtain a U.S.-style education leading to a valid visa; (b) study for a specified period of time, usually six months, and then get a work permit for Guam; or (c) study for a specified period of time and then be given green cards. These are mostly younger people who were told that if they obtained CNMI student permits, their futures in the U.S. would be assured. Some actually became students at reputable schools, but discovered that everything else they were told was false.

For this last group, and for those who remain in status and who can qualify to enter a CNMI school accredited by SEVIS (which controls which U.S. schools can accept foreign students), there is some hope that they can obtain U.S. student visas, although the process requires that they return to their home countries to finish the process. Because most of these people have now exhausted their funds, this is a fairly remote relief.

Some, particularly those enrolled by their promoters in questionable schools, have turned to the federal authorities to lodge fraud complaints. Unless the con artists set foot in the U.S., however, the chance of justice for these people is slim. Of course, schools that collaborate with scammers should be investigated, and the operators held accountable. This is a problem that has plagued the CNMI for too long—remember the Saipan University scandal?

The Foolish Bride/Bridegroom

We have said over and over again that the worst reason for getting married is to get immigration benefits, and we refuse to take as clients anyone whom we think is involved in a sham marriage. In the past months we have seen several people who came into the CNMI as tourists before Nov. 28 and then got married, either just before or sometime after their entry permits expired. They are usually unhappy with us when we explain that simply being married gives them no automatic basis to stay here, that it hasn't cured any overstay problem they may have, and that fraud in an immigration application will create a permanent bar to entering the U.S.

The Bad Time Blues

We have written before about the three- and 10-year bars to admission. When you overstay your lawful entry period, you immediately begin to accumulate what USCIS officials refer to as "bad time." A little bad time may not be a big thing if you later apply for a visa, although whoever reviews your application will certainly take the bad time into account. But if you overstay six months, you are barred from entering the U.S. for three years. If you overstay for a year or more, the bar is 10 years.

On May 28 we were six months past the transition date. If you are one of those people whose permits expired between then and now, you should leave before you stay long enough to trigger the bar. If you are the victim of a fraud, do not be afraid to visit the U.S. Attorney's office; based on our conversations with them, we believe that they are very sympathetic to victims.

Most of the people described in this column who have become unlawfully present have done so unintentionally. These marks are starting to "wake up" and become aware that they have been cheated. They tell us about asking the people who brought them here—when they can find them—for help, without success. That's because the scammers also follow another basic rule of confidence artists, summarized in the title of W.C. Fields 1941 movie: *Never Give a Sucker an Even Break.*

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

Letter to the Editor

Conserving energy

I've read the numerous problems facing the residents of the CNMI. The situation concerning the generation of affordable or even reliable power would seem to be the most pressing issue at this time.

The use of electricity, in my opinion, is something that competes right up there along the category of an individual's basic human rights. After all, how can you expect a modern society in this day and age to exist without it?

Without it, you have no economy. If it's unaffordable, you deny your citizens the ability to live fulfilling and healthy lives. Utility expenditures affect the viability of business operations as well. More often than not, it puts them out of business.

Without entering into a politicized letter of the how, why and what of the current situation, I would like to offer some proven suggestions that residents can adopt to lower the monthly electrical bill.

First, I would suggest that you educate yourselves. The key word you should learn is leakage. Throughout this letter, you should keep in mind one issue, and that would concern your refrigerator. Food safety and proper temperature is the most important issue that should never be modified. When looking to save energy, never take a chance on doing something that would lead to a health issue. Having said that, here are some things you can consider.

Leakage. That's a term to describe appliances or other items that appear to be off but still use electricity. This would apply to televisions, computers, microwaves, and other electronic devices that appear to be off but show an LED display, an electronic clock or memory device.

Theoretically, its possible to get your electrical usage down to a point where the only usage is from the refrigerator. I say that because I am assuming everyone has one, and they can't do without it. Other than that, you should be able to kill off any other electrical usage when your home or apartment isn't occupied. How do you do that? By using the circuit breakers. If you want to eliminate any electrical usage, including leakage, shut off all circuit breakers in the house except the one that feeds the refrigerator. Air-conditioning units use electricity regardless if they are running or not. They have what's called a control transformer. Granted, it's not a big user of power, but it does use it, even when the unit is off.

And who knows, if you have a central air-conditioning unit, you might even be paying for a heater band that is wrapped around the compressor. This heater is normally required in cooler climates, but you never know. I have come across them in tropical climates because the mainland manufacturer placed them on the units not knowing where they would be shipped. And yes, they do use electricity.

You can improve the efficiency of your refrigerator if you do a little research. Again, without going into a technical discussion of how it all works, try to do some research on the Internet.

By using a few Google search terms like refrigerator efficiency tips, or clean coils refrigerator, you will see some tried-and-true methods that actually reduce the refrigerator's run time.

That is the main key, the run time. The less time your refrigerator runs, the less electricity you use. While I haven't given you a full list of cost-saving ideas, if the *Saipan Tribune* allows me to continue posting letters, I would be happy to give you some additional cost-cutting measures. Believe it or not, it is possible to detach yourself from the problems that are taking place in the CNMI. I can, and I would be more than willing to educate everyone on the alternatives.

Jim Van
Via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°

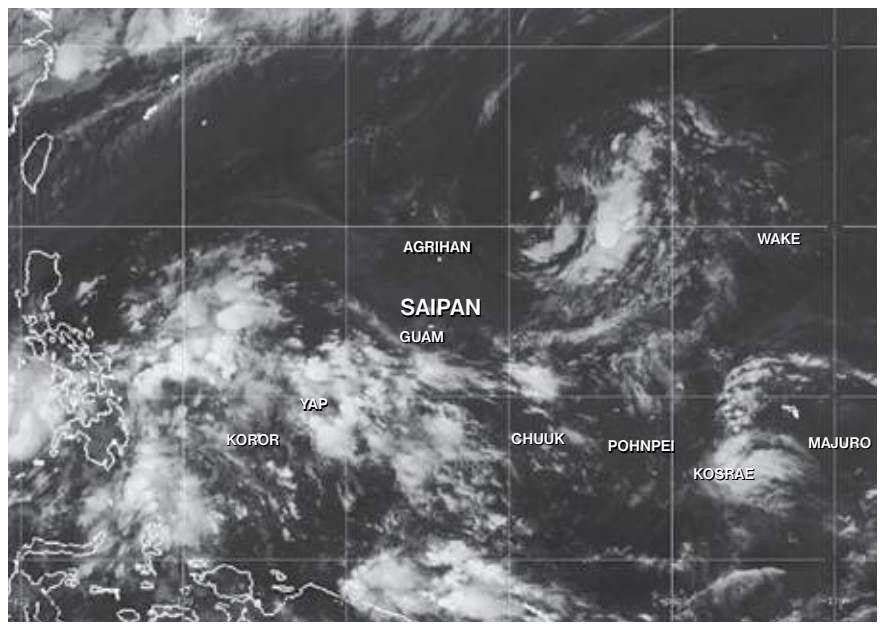
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲87	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼72
Honolulu	Windy	▲84	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲62	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼66
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼72
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲96	▼78

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends from an upper-level low centered at 13N130E east-northeastward to 17N150E then continues northeastward to another upper-level low centered just south of Minami Tori Shima at 22N153E and then beyond 25N156E. Upper-level divergence near and south of the trough axis is combining with trade-wind convergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 18N130E to 15N139E to 9N140E to 1N130E back to 18N130E and southeast of Minami Tori Shima between 19N and 24N from 153E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 2N141E to 9N153E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:00 PM	1:51 AM
Wednesday	3:58 PM	2:38 AM
Thursday	4:55 PM	3:29 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:21 AM
Saturday	5:50 PM	4:21 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

I'm all-out for casinos on Saipan if…

I'm for having casinos on Saipan. Despite the fact the people have consistently voted it down, there are no studies or proof that it will create a market of gamblers streaming to Saipan, that it will hurt our sister island of Tinian, that it's being sold to the public as the only way we can get out of debt, and that the people pushing for gambling will be the ones making the profit.

If the true purpose of setting up a casino is to help the economy of Saipan and improve the lives of those currently struggling in the face of a bankrupt economy, then I support it. And for those of us who may doubt the wisdom and integrity of some of our political leaders, I would only ask that the plans for a casino include the following:

1. That the casino be built outside of any village (say, at the old La Fiesta Mall).

2. No public funds are used to build it.

3. No member of any branch of government is allowed to make a profit or be associated with the casino.

4. That at least 90 percent of all profit go into the general fund, in support of education, health care, Retirement Fund, DPS improvements, and the overhaul of all utility services on island.

5. That someone with known and proven integrity be in charge of Ensuring that the profits go where there are supposed to go (my suggestion would be Tina Sablan or Congressman Kilili).

6. That all gambling be removed from Saipan, except for the casino. That means all poker places will be illegal, by law.

7. That there is a cap of $30,000 for members of the gambling commission and no more than three commissioners be appointed by a bipartisan vote.

8. That only tourists be allowed to frequent the casino.

9. That the casino be run by a professional with good character and integrity, and experience in the field of gambling (not a political appointee).

If these parameters were included in a gambling bill, and adhered to, I would support such a bill. And these parameters should be included in any bill that is made for the benefit of the people of Saipan. Think about it. And then consider the current gambling bill.

While waiting for the hoards of foreign tourists to flock to the shores of Saipan and magically fill our empty coffers, why not at least be a bit proactive and do something reasonable to save money.

A part-time legislature and removal of all the freebies (you know: gas, cell phones, cars, etc.) and the discretionary funds, that would indeed save millions of dollars.

Change a law or a constitutional mandate to make a part-time legislature? No problem. Declare the entire legislative branch in a state of emergency (just like CUC, CHC, and the governments payroll) and the governor can make it happen.

Better, remove all of the overpriced consultants. Or any number of other reasonable money saving suggestions that have been made over the last five years. It's time to think outside the box on ways to save money and to encourage investment in the CNMI. Gambling would not be the way.

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

No casinos: The alternatives

The audacity to say "yes to Saipan casinos" based on an empty public hearing is a clear example of how anything and everything will be twisted to help the casino cause. They actually want us to believe the results of a hearing that no one attended and apparently designed in a way that there would be no opposition. I doubt if there is anyone who will believe there is no opposition to Saipan casinos! But that's just half of it; the assertion that there are no other alternatives is one of the most ridiculous things I have ever heard. There are thousands of industries, new frontiers in technology and communications, and our limitless imagination and creativity—if we are just willing to do the work the good old American way. But the proponents of casinos don't want to do the work. They just want to sell us out to the casino owners so a few locals can get rich while the rest of us suffer the consequences.

The funny part is they are not just talking about one casino—its casino with an "s." They want to completely dedicate the capital of the CNMI to gambling; how grand will we look in Washington? But lucky for the CNMI, I'm not the only one with common sense who can see the Dynasty is still struggling and it defies logic to believe that casinos on Saipan will be any different—just a thousand times more local customers. I'm not the only one who knows casinos will only add to the existing gambling problems in families. I'm not the only one who knows casinos will create an array of new criminal elements in the CNMI.

As for alternatives, we are already committed to a tourist industry and it is a very good industry if we do the work to grow it. We only need to start doing more homework in unison with all the players to improve the industry. Simply put, all our tourist industry needs is a makeover to be more competitive in this day and time.

We are standing on a gold mine but our leaders just don't know how to work it and for an outsider to offer a solution is useless because nothing from an outsider can penetrate the wall of social imperialism that has been established—it's either a local's way or no way, which is why we are in the bad shape we are in today, playing it the local way in a federal game. Just think about it, there are no proven local economic theories for this region, there is no established philosophy or theory for local politics based on real principles and there has never been an established local form of government based on philosophies or principles. So why do we continue with the "local way" of politics, which leads to nowhere. The local way should end with cultural practices and traditions and not in the politics of governing a society.

The CNMI is part of America and that is the CNMI's best asset to fixing our economic woes. The Japanese went to war over these islands, the Koreans, Filipinos and Chinese also love these islands but we choose to just take advantage of the wealth and the people of these countries as opposed to working with these nations to build relationships. The CNMI should have been seeking an economic treaty with all of these countries years ago to allow for the governments and their approved investors to invest in education, sports, power and fuel, and tourists-related activities. In other words, create a real contract to work with these nations, as opposed to the empty handshakes we are presently exchanging.

An economic treaty with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and China will almost instantly change and improve the economic conditions and outlook for the CNMI. But here is the kicker: President Obama was recently in Japan and China and in both places he stated that he wanted an economic treaty with these nations. It's just amazing to me that I really have to spell it out as to what the CNMI needs to be doing given this revelation. I wrote about this once before and the GOP even adopted it as part of their platform but the ball was dropped after losing the gubernatorial election. Maybe this alternative to casinos will now be more appealing and someone will even pick up the ball and score big time for the CNMI. We only need to do the diplomatic work in Washington to get a treaty with these countries but we will never get a treaty approved from the fighting posture we are presently demonstrating. The CNMI must change this posture to reflect that we are trying to do something for ourselves, as opposed to begging for more federal dollars.

There are countless economic and social benefits for the CNMI with an economic treaty but just to give you a sample: Japan just gave Palau millions but they can't give or do anything for the CNMI without a treaty. If Koreans will create schemes for U.S. investor status, just think what they will do when they can get it legally—they will be standing in line for approval. Do the work!

The treaty countries will be allowed to build museums and monuments to reflect their history and connections in the Marianas, along with other tourist-related activities.

Sports facilities for their warm weather athletes to train during their winter months

New educational facilities and the birth of an education industry in the CNMI with foreign students from the treaty countries.

An independent service station from the Philippines to keep the cost of fuel more reasonable as we are closer to the oil fields and the refineries, yet we are still paying a higher cost simply from the lack of real competition that is created by independent stations.

We should also be seeking decommissioned planes and ships from the U.S. and all the treaty nations to add to the appeal of the CNMI as a tourist destination.

The investment of foreign governments in our tourist industry will create real partners with the treaty countries. The tourist arrival rates will surely establish new records.

The treaty will create many jobs and in many different fields, along with establishing a long-term means and methodology for maintaining and growing our tourist industry over time.

But just to show you what I mean by doing the work, I'll offer another possible alternative: pozzalon. We only know pozzalon is rare and valuable but we don't even know how valuable it is on the world market, what types of uses and applications for the mineral, what kind of processing of the mineral that can be done in the CNMI to support the mining of the mineral, what other possibilities of exporting the mineral, etc. Pozzalon could really have the potential to be a gold mine but no one will do the work. I'm also very confident a treaty with East Asian nations is more realistic and more appealing than casinos and the only question is, will our leaders do the diplomatic work? So will the CNMI sell out to a few rich men or do we do the diplomatic work to make us all better off?

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

ELITE CORPS

From Page 10

der way in the Silicon Valley. Satellite labs will be built and launched across the country. They will soon be bustling with the most accomplished scholars and graduates from our most prestigious universities.

The federal government, however, will not bankroll this movement alone. We have begun seeking financial commitments from the private sector as well, in the hopes of matching and surpassing the federal commitment.

Ours is not a cause motivated simply by environmentalism. At its heart, this project has been undertaken with the safety of the American people hanging in the balance. Every barrel of oil making its way from the wells of the Middle East to the shores of the United States is a form of indirect funding for those who wish to do this country harm. So, every step toward new and homegrown sources of energy is one step away from those who harbor America's most dangerous enemies.

At the same time, we acknowledge that truly American energy will not be developed overnight. In the intervening decades, we will continue to seek safe, reliable drilling opportunities in places outside the Middle East. Proposals like cap-and-trade or carbon taxes—wielding an economic stick at our country's crisis of energy—are no longer viable solutions. Moreover, they presuppose that alternative-energy sources are available right now, when the reality is that we are not yet prepared to depend on anything other than oil to power us forward.

Someday, however, we will be. And when that day comes, a future president will stand before you—this time to marvel at years of ingenuity that ushered in a new era of American safety and sustainability. Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

Reduced life insurance: What's next?

Dear Mr. Aguon: I read in a local paper that you are suggesting a severe reduction in life insurance payout amounts for Retirement Fund members. I am very much opposed to the idea of reducing the life insurance coverage to only $10,000! I agree with the lawmaker who suggested that this amount is only enough for a casket.

The Fund members *planned ahead* by enrolling in the GHLIF and paying life insurance premiums for many years so they could leave some money to their loved ones to pay final expenses and debts. Now, when it's too late for most retirees to qualify for or afford any other life insurance, the government wants to reduce the payout amount to almost nothing. I question whether it's even legal to drop the current retirees' coverage amounts like this when most of them are at an age and stage where they have no other options to replace it, and no recourse to start over.

Negotiating for a new group policy is one thing, but limiting the value of the policies to $10,000 is beyond reason and frankly beyond belief. Many of the retirees have pre-existing health conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, are on dialysis, or have a host of other chronic illnesses. How are all these people going to go out and get additional life insurance, as you suggest, when no one is going to insure them? Even if an insurer would accept them, it would cost astronomical sums of money for retirees of advanced age, especially for those with health problems.

The retirees faithfully paid their premiums over the years with the contractual understanding that they were buying a specific amount of life insurance. It was part of the employment package. If indeed there will be reductions in the policy values of the group life insurance policies, then at a minimum the current retirees and those getting close to retirement age should be grandfathered in and allowed to keep their current coverage, since they have no other reasonable options.

Betty Johnson
NMIRF member
Bradenton, Florida

ABTC educates community on alcohol, tobacco sale laws

As part of its outreach program, the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division resumed its efforts with the public and private school presentations in January 2010 starting at the elementary level and then worked toward the junior and high school levels.

The ABTC also initiated its pre-certification training program for managers, bartenders, wait staffs and cashiers in the areas of responsible alcohol and tobacco sales and services, according to David R. Maratita, director of the Department of Commerce's ABTC Division.

"The ABTC sincerely believes that educating students about alcohol and tobacco effects and the laws, at the early stage in the elementary level, can realistically reduce the statistics with regards to youth access and consumption of alcohol and tobacco. It is also equally important to ensure that the licensees are properly informed and trained. Therefore, the ABTC anticipates that by officially certifying the employees of all the licensed establishments through a sanctioned training program can also significantly reduce the youth access to alcohol and tobacco products," said Maratita.

Warning on I.D. Requirement

The CNMI's alcohol and tobacco laws specifically states that the licensee must ask for I.D. card prior to making any sale of alcohol or tobacco products.

"If the customer does not have an I.D. card in his or her immediate possession, then the sale shall not be made. The law is mandatory and there is no exception," Maratita said.

As a strong warning, the ABTC Division will not tolerate such irresponsible actions from the licensee.

"We have received calls from the community that some bars are actually allowing minors to drink beer without 'carding' for confirmation on age. The ABTC enforcement officers are out every other day and night visiting the establishments and the officers have zero tolerance for such irresponsible actions. There will be no exceptions and citations will be issued immediately on the premises on every violation. While it is helpful to receive such phone calls, we are encouraging the general community to call the ABTC hotline at 483-1821 to make complaints or report any violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Control laws. We will initiate investigative actions and provide solution within 24 hours the complaint is made," Maratita asserted.

If you are unsure of how to ask for an Identification Card (I.D. Card) or types of acceptable I.D. cards, the ABTC has established a training program specifically tailored for merchants of alcohol and tobacco products. Any interested licensee who wishes to avail of these training can contact the ABTC Division at 664-3065 to setup a training schedule for their staff and management. ***(DOC)***

Brabu Pharmacy marks 1st year with cleanup of 13 Fishermen's Monument

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brabu Pharmacy owner Ted Parker is joined by two of his staff in cleaning up the 13 Fishermen's Monument.

In celebration of its first year anniversary, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center held a cleanup of their adopted site, the 13 Fishermen's Monument.

"Any business successfully making it through its first year is grateful, especially during these economic times," said Brabu Pharmacy owner Ted Parker. "It's also a good time to express your appreciation to the community that has supported you by giving a little back. So we decided to show it by cleaning up around our adopted bin."

Brabu Pharmacy is one of 12 organizations that have put their name on the map by taking part in MINA's Adopt-a-Bin program. The program's goal is to prevent marine debris by providing conveniently located trash and recycling bins at public beach sites with weekly trash collection services.

"The beach was pretty clean," said Brabu Pharmacy staff Hannah Cabrera. "Most people seem to be using the bins, but there were still lots of broken glass and cigarette butts left on the ground."

CNMI's 2009 Coastal Cleanup Day records show that cigarette butts and packaging were the most littered items.

Cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate that can take years to break down. Research shows that many people do not think of cigarette butts as litter, nor do they realize the environmental harm they cause. Butts thrown haphazardly start brush fires and, even if extinguished create, an eyesore when left on the ground, and eventually wash onto our shorelines.

Cigarette butts are specifically designed to trap toxins from entering smoker's lungs. According to "Californians against waste," butts can contain "up to 60 known human carcinogens including arsenic, formaldehyde, chromium and lead." Littered butts become a toxic meal for animals and marine life that confuse them for food.

Smokers looking for a solution to disposing cigarettes when an ashtray or waste bin is not available can simply place the extinguished butt between the cellophane wrapper and the cigarette package until they find a bin to throw it away. It's that easy.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to add your name to MINA's Adopt-a-Bin map, contact 233-REEF, or mina@minapacific.org. ***(PR)***

Learn how to properly discipline employees

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will have Northern Marianas College Business Department chair Dr. John Griffin as special guest for its June general membership this Thursday, June 24, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

Griffin will present "Progressive Discipline and How to Do it Right" during the lunch meeting from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the San Antonio hotel.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers to learn about how to effectively carry out disciplinary actions with employees in the workplace.

Progressive discipline is a process for dealing with job-related behavior that does not meet expected and communicated performance standards. The primary purpose for progressive discipline is to assist the employee to understand that a performance problem or opportunity for improvement exists.

The process features increasingly formal efforts to provide feedback to the employee so he or she can correct the problem. The goal of progressive discipline is to take a positive approach to improving employee performance rather than the negative approach of immediately punishing them.

After Dr. Griffin provides his presentation, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

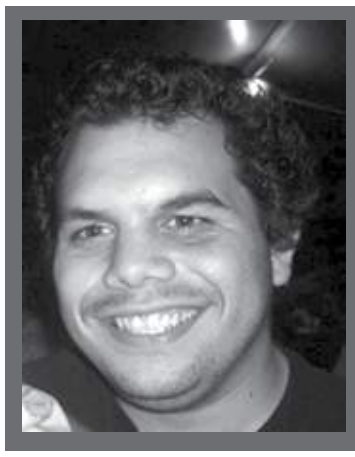
The presentation includes lunch and any handouts. The cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president Polly Deleon Guerrero at PIC at 237-5122 or e-mail pollydlg@gmail.com.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

ROBERT C. BYRD HONORS SCHOLARS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education officials and Board of Education members join this year's 13 recipients of Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, which provides each scholar $6,000 in total funding assistance for their college education. This year's scholars are Albert Tudela Palacios, Denn Manibusan Manglona, Trini De Leon Guerrero MacDuff, Ryan Ortizo, Madison Anne Smith, Miki Nadia Macachor Dela Cruz, Luella Lynn Orlando, Darren Tenorio Demapan, Armalene Bautista Cabreros, Jim Cedric "CJ" Libut, Adeleyah Charlotte Mojica, Dion Shante Agulto Diaz, and Winona-Rebekah Blanco Maratita.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 21st birthday to John Tagabuel! We love you and we hope you enjoy your vacation on Saipan! Greetings come from your As Teo family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

George Felix DLG. Blas Jr. is celebrating his first birthday today, June 22. May God bless you in this special day! Greeting from Mom, Dad, Keoki, and Georalyn.

CONTRIBITED PHOTO

HONOR STUDENT

Congratulations to 6th grade graduate Lee Ann Lustre Jastillana for receiving the Principal's Award 2010 and the President's Award for Educational Excellence 2010 at Garapan Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

A complex responsibility

Complicating the inquiry into the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion is the vessel's complex, international history of regulations. The sometimes conflicting regulatory directives could prove to be an obstacle in determining who is responsible for the disaster.

Fire boat crews battle the blaze on the Deepwater Horizon, April 21, 2010

A Deepwater Horizon was built in 2001 at Hyundai Heavy Industries Shipyard in Ulsan, South Korea

B Transocean, owner of Deepwater Horizon, moved headquarters two years ago from the Cayman Islands to Switzerland

C Deepwater Horizon was leased by BP, based in the United Kingdom

D The rig was registered with the Marshall Islands at the time of the explosion; it had previously been registered in Panama

B The Marshall Islands ship registry is run through a joint venture with International Registries Inc., based in Reston, Va.

F As a foreign vessel, the rig was inspected by the American Bureau of Shipping, an internationally recognized private company known as a "classification society," based in Houston

Source: Chicago Tribune, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Nations rethink drilling in wake of BP oil spill

LONDON (AP)—Britain has doubled rig inspections. Bulgaria scrapped plans for a new oil pipeline. Chinese and French oil giants are upgrading equipment and procedures designed to prevent spills. As oil continues to gush into the Gulf of Mexico, nations around the globe are taking a cue from this cautionary tale and ratcheting up their oversight of the petroleum industry.

"We must also deal with the possibility of an accident near our shores," EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso told the European Parliament in Strasbourg last week. "Drilling techniques have similarities even if the waters are much shallower in the North Sea."

Canada's offshore regulator is tightening oversight of its deepest-ever exploration well, being drilled by Chevron off the coast of Newfoundland. Meanwhile, China's offshore oil company, China National Offshore Oil Corp., or CNOOC, says it is upgrading its blowout preventer system and diving equipment for a drilling rig being built in Shanghai.

And France's Total has formed two task forces to check facilities and strengthen contingency plans for any potential major pollution.

"We all saw what is happening in the Gulf of Mexico," said Bulgaria Prime Minister Boiko Borisov. The government canceled a new pipeline that would have carried Russian oil to Greece following resistance from residents of the Black Sea town of Burgas, where the pipeline was to start.

The Gulf catastrophe also has sparked a debate over the practice of deepwater drilling itself—with some viewing the spill as reason to ban it altogether.

US exec must clean up oil spill and BP's image

LONDON (AP)—BP's new strategy to clean up its image and the Gulf Coast is to hand the job from its British CEO, widely criticized for tone-deaf comments and yachting amid the crisis, to one of its top-ranking Americans.

Bob Dudley is no stranger to tough situations, having protected his company's interests in rough dealing in Russia even after he was barred from the country. Perhaps most importantly, he is a fresh face for the oil giant as it attempts to fix the spill and protect its future.

Dudley will take over as BP's point man on the spill response, reporting to CEO Tony Hayward. Company officials have variously put the time frame at anywhere from immediately until after the spill is plugged, which isn't likely to happen until August.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nations divided over lifting ban on whale hunt

CASABLANCA (AP)—A showdown looms this week over the 25-year ban on commercial whaling: Should it be eased, which might mean fewer whales are killed? Or should it remain—leaving Japan, Norway and Iceland to hunt down as many whales as they want? The International Whaling Commission begins a five-day meeting Monday in Morocco's Atlantic Ocean resort of Agadir—arguably its most important gathering since 1986, when a moratorium on commercial whaling halted the factory-style slaughter of tens of thousands of animals every year. A compromise that would suspend the whaling ban has been drafted by the agency's chairman, but it's an unhappy option for nations that abhor whaling. The deal would legitimize commercial hunting in exchange for a drop in the number of whales actually killed by those claiming exemptions to the ban—Japan, Norway and Iceland.

Oil jumps above $78 as China lifts currency peg

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices jumped above $78 a barrel Monday in Asia as China's move to end its two-year peg to the dollar over the weekend boosted investor confidence. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up $1.09 to $78.27 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 39 cents to settle at $77.18 on Friday. The official exchange rate for China's currency stood unchanged Monday in line with the central bank's warning the value of the yuan would not dramatically rise. Traders anticipate a stronger yuan will make dollar-based commodities such as oil cheaper in China and bolster demand. The policy shift also suggests China's officials believe its economy is growing enough to absorb any slowdown in exports a stronger currency may cause.

GM hopes new Cruze controls small car market

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—General Motors thinks it can finally sell a good small car. The company, which has a past littered with compact wrecks like the unsafe Corvair and rusty Vega, will roll out the Chevrolet Cruze in September—betting it can attract younger drivers and succeed in the most competitive segment of the worldwide auto market. GM owners may know that "nothing works like a Chevy truck," but the little Cruze is a big gamble. "They can't afford to get it wrong," said Michael Robinet, an automotive analyst with CSM Worldwide in Michigan. The Cruze follows another GM small-car flop, the Chevy Cobalt, which failed because it looks dated, is noisy, has a chintzy hard-plastic interior and doesn't perform as well as competitors. Americans bought just 105,000 last year, compared with about three times as many Toyota Corollas.

Nation

Arizona wildfire forces hundreds to evacuate

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Firefighters in aircraft and on the ground battled the second serious wildfire to threaten the Flagstaff area in two days Sunday, prompting officials to urge hundreds of residents to flee as flames crept within 500 yards of some homes.

Officials said the fast-spreading fire erupted in this forested city's northern outskirts Sunday morning and burned across 7 square miles of forest land by evening, sending a huge plume of smoke over parts of the region.

Strong winds fueled the flames. "The higher winds definitely played a key role in the extreme behavior of the fire today and it will continue tomorrow," said city spokeswoman Stephanie Smith.

Residents of hundreds of homes were urged to evacuate because of the blaze, dubbed the Schultz fire. Some heeded the call but it was unclear how many; others watched as bright red and orange flames climbed over a mountain behind a cloud of towering smoke.

The blaze was within 500 yards of a scattering of homes beneath the mountain, spurring firefighters to work feverishly on a containment line, said fire spokesman Eric Neitzel. No structures have burned.

Five helicopters and eight air tankers dropped fire suppression chemicals and 300 firefighters battled the blaze. The fire will be turned over to a federal management team Monday, Smith said, allowing for even more resources.

The city and Coconino County declared states of emergency, and officials closed U.S. 89, a key route to Grand Canyon National Park about 75 miles to the north.

Also Sunday, evacuation orders for a fire the emerged Saturday in southeastern Flagstaff were lifted after officials reported it 25 percent contained.

Far offshore, crews drill into Gulf to stop oil

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP)—Fly by helicopter above the patchy wetlands along the Mississippi River Delta and past the floating boom and skimmers that have failed to protect the Gulf Coast from the worst oil spill in U.S. history. Keep following the finger-like oil slicks speckled orange and brown that threaten it still.

About 40 miles from the coast a fleet of ships appears. They look like toys packed in a two-mile-square patch of dull water. It's easy to see the approaching drill rig with its 200-foot derrick, offering what is likely the best chance for permanently stopping the nation's worst environmental disaster.

The Sikorsky chopper reaches it and settles on its landing pad. The thwack of the rotors quiets down, and a rig worker steps into the helicopter cabin.

"OK, welcome to the DDII," he says.

Transocean Ltd.'s Development Driller II is one of two rigs slowly grinding their drill bits 13,000 feet below the seafloor until they intersect the well damaged April 20 when another Transocean rig exploded, killing 11 workers and triggering the massive oil leak. A group of reporters that included The Associated Press had a rare chance to tour the rig Saturday.

Once one of the two relief wells intersects the damaged line, BP plans to pump heavy drilling mud in to stop the oil flow and plug the blown-out well with cement.

Neb. town to vote on illegal immigration measure

FREMONT, Neb. (AP)—Angered by a recent influx of Hispanic workers attracted by jobs at local meatpacking plants, voters in the eastern Nebraska city of Fremont will decide Monday whether to ban hiring or renting property to illegal immigrants.

The vote will be the culmination of a two-year fight that saw proponents collect enough signatures to put the question to a public vote. If the ordinance is approved, the community of 25,000 people could face a long and costly court battle. Either way, the emotions stirred up won't settle quickly.

"Even if we say 'no' ... we still need to say, 'How do we get along with each other now?'" said Kristin Ostrom, who helps oversee a campaign against the measure.

Across the nation, people have been outraged by—and demanded action against—the poor enforcement of federal laws to prevent illegal immigration. A law recently introduced in Arizona requires police to question people on their immigration status if there's a "reasonable suspicion" they are illegal.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tornado rips businesses, arena in Billings, Mont.

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—A tornado that ripped the roof off a sports arena Sunday evening also tore through businesses, damaging a bar and a casino and leaving just the walls of an auto glass shop standing. The tornado struck at about 4:30 p.m. as a big storm system with golf ball-sized hail passed through the area, National Weather Service meteorologist Keith Meier said. After running through Main Street in the city's northeast area, the twister quickly moved toward the 10,000-seat Rimrock Auto Arena about a half-mile away, where it hovered for about 15 minutes, snapping trees and telephone poles. "It would touch down and suck back up and touch down and touch down again," said Trooper Toman Baukema of the Montana Highway Patrol, who saw the tornado from a patrol station about a mile away. Big pieces of metal could be seen hanging from power lines near the arena, and tangles of insulation and metal debris were strewn for hundreds of yards in the surrounding industrial area.

US researcher says he has ID'd 7 MIAs from WWII

SUITLAND, Maryalnd (AP)—A private researcher who has labored for years to identify the remains of U.S. service members declared missing in action during World War II says he has matched seven MIAs with the remains of unknowns and he expects to match as many as 19 more within a week. Ted Darcy's list of five Marines and two sailors missing since the 1944 Battle of Saipan may not sound long. But his announcement Tuesday—the 66th anniversary of the battle's opening day—was remarkable, considering the military's average of confirming 72 such matches annually from all U.S. wars. Darcy, a retired Marine Corps gunnery sergeant from Massachusetts, has helped bring home three WWII MIAs since 1991 from burial sites in the Philippines, Hawaii and Rhode Island. Now he is accelerating his work using computerized databases filled with information he painstakingly entered from two sets of government documents: those containing physical descriptions of MIAs and those containing autopsies of slain service members buried as unknowns. He hands over his findings to the military, which then tries to verify his work.

Asia

RP fails to meet deadline to crush rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military acknowledged Sunday that it could not meet a deadline this month to eradicate a decades-old communist rebellion but said offensives have whittled the strength of the insurgents to a historic low.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had ordered troops to crush the Maoist rebellion—one of Asia's longest—by the end of her term on June 30, but the military said about 4,000 New People's Army guerrillas remain in five key regions nationwide.

There were about 25,000 guerrillas at their peak in the mid-1980s under dictator Ferdinand Marcos' rule, but their ranks have since dwindled due to battle setbacks, surrenders and factionalism.

The 120,000-strong military is crafting a new plan to rout the rebels under incoming President Benigno Aquino III, military spokesman Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos said.

"They couldn't be totally eradicated because our troops were needed in other places," Burgos told The Associated Press. "But we have deprived them of many of their strongholds, and their numbers are at a historic low."

The underfunded military, one of Asia's weakest, has also been battling Muslim guerrillas and al-Qaida-linked militants in the country's south. Troops were also deployed to secure the May 10 presidential and local elections.

Death toll from Myanmar floods, landslides hits 63

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The military and humanitarian groups are aiding people in northwestern Myanmar, where days of flooding and landslides killed more than 60 people and affected 15,000 families, state media and the United Nations reported Monday.

In Rakhine state, the torrential rains triggered floods and mudslides that washed away homes, damaged schools and bridges and caused 63 deaths, according to Monday's official count.

The death toll could rise because villagers were returning to homes on steep hills that still are vulnerable to landslides, said a U.N. official, who declined to be named since he was not authorized to speak with the media.

The New Light of Myanmar newspaper said local military commanders in the junta-ruled nation and authorities aided victims and inspected repair and recovery efforts in the state's seriously hit Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions.

The government, United Nations and other humanitarian organizations have provided clothing, medicine, household utensils, food and cash for the victims, state media and a U.N. press release said.

Many of the flood victims were housed at schools and temporary shelters since the rains began June 13 and did not end until midweek.

The U.N. said up to 15,000 families were affected, while state media said only more than 2,000 people suffered from the flooding.

2 blasts rock S. Afghanistan in weekend violence

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two bombs hidden in push carts exploded less than a half hour apart in one of Afghanistan's most dangerous provinces, underscoring the continued security threat despite years of trying to bring peace to the unstable south.

The double explosions in Helmand province Sunday were just two in a series of attacks reported over the weekend across the country.

They came a day after a U.N. report painted a grim picture of the security situation in Afghanistan, saying roadside bombings and assassinations have soared in the first four months of the year. In Washington, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on "Fox News Sunday" while the war is a "tough pull," momentum was shifting toward the U.S. troops and their Afghan and international partners.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Media: 46 dead in explosion in central China mine

BEIJING (AP)—State media say at least 46 miners were killed when an explosion ripped through a mine in the central Chinese province of Henan. The State Administration of Work Safety said the blast early Monday hit a mine in Pingdingshan city in the province. The official Xinhua News Agency reported on the deaths and said at least 12 miners still are missing. Safety has improved sharply in recent years, but China's mining industry is by far he world's deadliest. Accidents and blasts killed more than 2,600 coal miners last year.

Vietnam scraps $56B bullet train project over cost

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese legislators rejected a proposed bullet train over its $56 billion cost—the assembly's first rejection of a major proposal submitted by the all-powerful Communist government. The nearly 500-member assembly typically acts as a rubber stamp but voted over the weekend to deny plans for the high-speed rail project. The $56 billion investment would have built a 975-mile (1,570-kilometer) track linking the capital Hanoi and the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City by 2035. A train trip that now takes 30 hours would have been cut to about six hours. But ordinary Vietnamese could not afford the fares, and construction would equal about 50 percent of the country's gross domestic product, said Nguyen Minh Thuyet, a lawmaker from northern Lang Son province.

Soldiers fire on Kashmiri protesters; 1 killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian troops fired on hundreds of demonstrators who tried to torch a paramilitary bunker in Kashmir on Sunday, killing one person and wounding at least five, police said. More were injured in subsequent clashes. Hundreds of people took to the streets of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, in an angry protest against the death of a 25-year-old who died a day earlier after being beaten by soldiers in a demonstration last week. The protesters threw rocks at security forces and surrounded an armored vehicle belonging to paramilitary soldiers, according to footage from AP Television News. They later tried to light a bunker on fire, said Farooq Ahmed, a top police officer. A spokesman for the paramilitary force said they fired in self-defense. "We exercised maximum restraint. Our soldiers opened fire only in self-defense after the protesters tried to torch the bunker," said Prabhakar Tripathi, spokesman for the Central Reserve Police Force.

World

Canada's economy is suddenly the envy of the world

AP

In this May 2, 2009 file photo, former prime minister Paul Martin casts his ballot for the new leader and national party executives at the Liberal Leadership Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

TORONTO (AP)—Canada thinks it can teach the world a thing or two about dodging financial meltdowns.

The 20 world leaders at an economic summit in Toronto next weekend will find themselves in a country that has avoided a banking crisis where others have floundered, and whose economy grew at a 6.1 percent annual rate in the first three months of this year. The housing market is hot and three-quarters of the 400,000 jobs lost during the recession have been recovered.

World leaders have noticed: President Barack Obama says the U.S. should take note of Canada's banking system, and Britain's Treasury chief is looking to emulate the Ottawa way on cutting deficits.

The land of a thousand stereotypes—from Mounties and ice hockey to language wars and lousy weather—is feeling entitled to do a bit of crowing as it hosts the G-20 summit of wealthy and developing nations.

"We should be proud of the performance of our financial system during the crisis," said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in an interview with The Associated Press.

He recalled visiting China in 2007 and hearing suggestions "that the Canadian banks were perhaps boring and too risk-adverse. And when I was there two weeks ago some of my same counterparts were saying to me, 'You have a very solid, stable banking system in Canada,' and emphasizing that. There wasn't anything about being sufficiently risk-oriented."

Report: Van der Sloot mentally ill, mother says

Van der Sloot

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Joran van der Sloot, the chief suspect in the murder of one woman and the disappearance of another, suffers mental problems, his mother was quoted Sunday as saying.

Van der Sloot, a 22-year-old Dutchman, is suspected in the disappearance of American teenager Natalee Holloway in Aruba in 2005. He sits now in a prison compound on the dusty outskirts of Peru's capital, Lima, held on suspicion of killing 21-year-old Stephany Flores on May 30—five years to the day after Holloway vanished while on vacation.

"My son is sick in his head," the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf quoted Anita van der Sloot as saying in an interview published on its website Sunday. The comments were her first since her son's most recent arrest.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-defense chief easily wins Colombia's presidency

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A 58-year-old U.S.-educated economist who dealt withering blows to leftist rebels as defense minister has won Colombia's presidency by the largest margin in modern history. Juan Manuel Santos got 69 percent of the vote in Sunday's runoff in a ringing endorsement of his promise to continue the U.S.-backed security policies of outgoing conservative President Alvaro Uribe that he helped craft. Former two-time Bogota Mayor Antanas Mockus, a maverick outsider running a clean-government campaign as the Green Party's candidate, finished with 28 percent in an election marked by low turnout. Surrounded by his wife and three children during a victory speech to 10,000 supporters in a Bogota coliseum, Santos lionized the man whose defense ministry he ran in 2006-2009,

Runoff looms in Polish presidential election

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A somber election season in Poland was prolonged by two weeks Sunday when a first round of voting produced no immediate successor to Lech Kaczynski, the president killed more than two months ago in a plane crash. Results show the interim president and parliament speaker, Bronislaw Komorowski, is leading Kaczynski's identical twin, Jaroslaw Kaczynski. But Komorowski appeared to fall short of the 50 percent needed for outright victory. The two leaders must now go head-to-head in a runoff vote on July 4, without eight other candidates who ran Sunday. Kaczynski, 61, addressing supporters Sunday evening, made a rare reference to the plane crash that killed his brother, noting that the campaign has been anything but normal. He said "it's an election which is the result of a huge catastrophe, a huge misfortune, a huge tragedy." An exit poll by Millward Brown SMG/KRC showed Komorowski with 45.7 percent of the vote and Kaczynski with 33.2 percent. A second poll, by OBOP, showed 41.2 percent for Komorowski and 35.8 percent for Kaczynski.

Suicide bombs kill 33 in Iraq, officials say

BAGHDAD (AP)—Suicide bombers in a crowded Baghdad commercial district and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit killed as many as 33 people Sunday as insurgents tried to turn a monthslong deadlock over forming a new Iraqi government to their advantage. The latest violence began when bombers drove two cars packed with nearly 180 pounds (82 kilograms) of ammonium nitrate toward the gates of the Trade Bank of Iraq building in Baghdad and detonated the explosives after striking the surrounding blast walls, said Iraqi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi. Al-Moussawi said at least 18 people were killed and 42 wounded. But three Iraqi police officials and a doctor at the Yarmouk hospital where many victims were taken put the toll at 28 killed and 57 wounded. Conflicting casualty tolls are common in the chaotic aftermath of bombings in Iraq. Hours later, a man wearing an explosives vest blew himself up as police and onlookers responded to a roadside bomb apparently set as a trap in the northern city of Tikrit. At least five people were killed and 12 wounded in the late night attack, according to police and hospital officials.

Focus

Korea–a war without end–casts a long shadow

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Distant thunder rattled the windows as Hong Il-sik, 14-year-old schoolboy, awoke that Sunday. It was the sound of artillery fire, the morning of June 25, 1950, the dawn of a war that never ended.

Looking back, "I couldn't even have imagined that—60 years," says the gray-haired ex-university president.

Gen. Paik Sun-yup, on the contrary, is unsurprised by the endurance of Korea's endless standoff.

Knowing the enemy, North Korea's communists, "we sensed back in the 1950s it could be a very long conflict," the sturdy 90-year-old Paik, a legendary Korean War commander, told a visitor to his memento-filled office above Seoul's War Memorial, the huge museum he helped build.

The war without end began that long-ago Sunday when North Korea invaded the south to try to reunify the nation, a liberated Japanese colony sliced in two in 1945 by the U.S. and Soviet victors of World War II.

At first, the invaders almost drove a weak South Korean-U.S. force off the peninsula, but U.S. reinforcements poured in, rolled back the northerners and drove deep into North Korea. Then, in late 1950, communist China stepped in, its massed divisions throwing the Americans and South Koreans back to the peninsula's midsection, where the two sides waged a costly seesaw war over bits of ground for two years, ending with a stalemate, a July 1953 armistice—not a peace, but a war on hold.

The Pusan Perimeter and "Stand or Die." Walker and Ridgway and Syngman Rhee. The Bowling Alley and the Punchbowl. Unsan-ni and Heartbreak Ridge. Pork Chop Hill and Kunu-ri.

The headline names and places of a lifetime ago fade from memory. But this "forgotten" chapter of 20th-century history still casts a long shadow over today's world, as the root of unending crises on the peninsula and beyond, and as the war that turned America permanently into a dominant global military power.

The U.S. defense budget, slashed after World War II, quadrupled almost overnight as Washington decided to confront communism militarily. American armed forces ballooned to 3 million men, and U.S. bases spread worldwide. Three months after that June morning in 1950, U.S. President Harry Truman signed National Security Council paper No. 68, saying the nation must, "at whatever cost and sacrifice," defend democracy "at home or abroad." Within a few years, the U.S. Vietnam debacle began to unfold in southeast Asia.

It wasn't only America's place on the world stage that changed with Korea 1950-53.

"The Korean War thrust China onto the Cold War's front line," Shen Zhihua, a leading Chinese scholar of the war, told The Associated Press. "It encouraged Mao Tse-tung to lead Asia's and even the world's revolutions," and it "entrenched the enmity and hatred between China and the U.S."

The two Koreas, meanwhile, rebuilt industrial economies from the war's devastation, the north as an authoritarian one-party state obsessed with self-reliance, the south as a capitalist powerhouse under repressive military rule and, for the past two decades, a civilian democracy.

Across the heavily mined armistice line, a 4-kilometer-wide (2.5-mile-wide) demilitarized strip stretching 220 kilometers (135 miles) across the peninsula, almost 2 million troops face each other on ready alert for resumed war, some 27,000 of them U.S. military.

War scares have flared regularly, from the 1968 North Korean seizure of the U.S. Navy spy ship Pueblo, to the long-running duel over North Korea's nuclear-weapons program, to this year's sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan, allegedly by North Korea. The north earned a reputation as an outlaw state through such brazen acts as blowing up a South Korean airliner or kidnapping Japanese men and women,

Why has this state of no war, no peace dragged on for 60 years?

South Korean scholar Hong believes four great powers—the U.S. and Japan on one side, China and Russia on the other—like it this way.

A unified Korea would align with one power or the other, upsetting the regional balance, said the former Korea University president, a prominent conservative commentator.

"By keeping Korea divided, they're in fact maintaining their own security," Hong said.

Korea as Cold War victim is a given of history: After the impromptu 1945 division, done for the convenience of the dual military occupation, the U.S.-Soviet superpower rivalry repeatedly foiled all efforts at reunification.

But that Cold War ended a generation ago, and Korea's cold war goes on.

Historian Park Myung-lim, a prolific chronicler of the war and author of a recent book on its consequences, said the North Korean leadership of the late Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Jong Il bears much of the blame because of its stark black-and-white worldview and bellicose "military first" policies.

Even more, however, it has been a U.S. failure, Park said.

Despite normalizing relations with Moscow, Beijing and Vietnam, the U.S. "has chosen containment over engagement and peaceful coexistence with North Korea," he said.

"I don't understand—Washington is much, much bigger and stronger than Pyongyang, but for 60 years they have failed to bring it into the international community, to invite them to the international community."

It's because "we've never known our enemy," said the University of Chicago's Bruce Cumings, whose new book, "The Korean War," encapsulates a career study of this pivotal 20th-century episode.

American policymakers down the generations wrongly viewed Pyongyang as a puppet of the Kremlin and Beijing, Cumings noted.

"When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, these deep suppositions about the nature of the regime led them to predict North Korea would collapse any day soon. Here we are 20 years later and North Korea is still standing," he said.

Cumings has long advocated for a better understanding of the North Koreans, a people bombed to near-oblivion by the U.S. Air Force in 1950-53. "We burned down every town in North Korea," U.S. bombing expert Gen. Curtis LeMay said afterward.

"Knowing that, you can understand how North Korea looks at us, the grievances they have," Cumings said.

Veteran Korea observer Selig A. Harrison, of the Washington research group Center for International Policy, sees "lots of missed opportunities for peace" over six decades of confrontation.

He attests personally to one, when he interviewed Kim Il Sung in 1972 and carried away an offer of a greater opening toward the U.S., only to be rebuffed by American officials.

"Kim Il Sung was a ruthless tyrant internally," Harrison said. But "he didn't want another Korean War and he did want normalization with the United States."

Park Myung-lim said chances for peace slipped by even a half-century ago: "When China withdrew its troops from the north in 1958, this was the proper time for a U.S. troop withdrawal from the Korean peninsula."

Cumings and others, including Donald Gregg, a former U.S. ambassador to Seoul, cite the abrupt change from President Bill Clinton to President George W. Bush in 2001 as the most recent lost opportunity to end the Korean paralysis.

When Kim Jong Il's envoy Jo Myung Rok lunched with Clinton officials in October 2000 in Washington, after months of diplomatic groundwork, "I heard things said by both sides that were the most hopeful things ever said since the end of the Korean War," Gregg recalled.

But incoming President Bush then scrapped the previous administration's approach and labeled Pyongyang part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran. "There was total discontinuity," Gregg said.

Others find fault elsewhere. Hong, a believer in the "collapse" theory, said the biggest recent missed opportunity occurred when South Korea's late liberal President Kim Dae-jung instituted his "sunshine policy" of peaceful coexistence, economic relations and humanitarian aid for North Korea.

"I strongly believe that in 1998 if Kim Dae-jung hadn't supported North Korea financially, they would have collapsed by themselves," Hong said.

Retired Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, a former U.S. chief of staff in Korea, sees blown opportunities in the war years themselves.

"The armistice, in essence, rewarded North Korea for invading South Korea. We had the opportunity from a military standpoint. We should have pushed north"—that is, pressed the offensive to subdue the north, said Singlaub, who in 1977 tangled with then-President Jimmy Carter over Carter's plan, later dropped, to withdraw U.S. troops from the peninsula.

North Korea's own views on the endless standoff emerge only in uncomplicated official statements, such as a recent one blaming a "background of hostile actions by South Korea and the USA."

Sixty years of crisis invites such an uncertain array of post-mortems and prescriptions for peace, just as the immediate consequences of the war itself remain uncertain in many ways.

Did 2.5 million people die, or as many as 4 million? The United Nations concluded Chinese military deaths alone reached almost 1 million. The official U.S. death toll stands at 36,516, and hundreds more died from 15 European and other allied nations that came to South Korea's defense. Tens of thousands were massacred in political executions on both sides. The physical devastation, both north and south, was almost complete: factories and schools, railroads and ports, bridges and dams, and hundreds of thousands of homes destroyed. Some 10 million South Koreans today are separated from family in the north.

For the 49 million South Koreans and 24 million North Koreans, that psychic legacy of the unending war, another kind of damage, remains invisible.

Boston psychologist Ramsay Liem, a Korean-American, tells of an emigre to America who as a schoolboy caught in the war, like Hong Il-sik, saw too much killing. "Happiness leaves the heart," is how that man described the burden, "and life cannot be lived fully."

It's a burden sensed even by younger generations, said Liem, who nonetheless believes that "the North Korean and South Korean people have the capacity to resolve this. The problem is, I don't think they've really had the opportunity."

From the hillside campus of Yonsei University, historian Park can look out over this throbbing steel-and-glass metropolis, 10 million people all within range of their brother North Koreans' big artillery. In his crowded office, its document shelves lined with details of the war's atrocities, Park can relive its horrors.

"The Korean people never imagined they could be separated. That was the beginning of the tragedy," Park said. "For North Koreans and South Koreans both, the thing now is to avoid a second Korean War at all costs. It would mean the death of all of us."

AP

In this Dec. 4, 1950 file photo, residents from Pyongyang, North Korea, and refugees from other areas crawl perilously over shattered girders of the city's bridge, as they flee south across the Taedong River to escape the advance of Chinese Communist troops.

Overdrive

The 2010 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor.

2010 FORD F-150 SVT RAPTOR:

Flashy, splashy, high-performance

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

I had parked my weekly test vehicle in the parking lot of Virginia's Williamsburg Winery during the Ferraris On The Vine car show. Little did I know, it would get quite a reaction from two guys with a video camera.

"I've never seen one," one guy says.

"Nor have I," the other responds.

Admiring its beefed-up suspension, the budding YouTube auto critic says, "That's not stock. I mean, it looks stock, but that's not stock. I know what a stock one looks like."

Well, guess what? It is stock. Does this mean you can't believe everything you see on YouTube? I, for one, am shocked.

Let's take a look at the 2010 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor. For starters, it is not a vehicle for those in the witness protection program.

Developed by Ford's Special Vehicles Team, this performance pickup capitalizes on Ford's successes in desert off-road racing, which includes eight championships in 2007's Best in the Desert series, four titles in Championship Off Road Racing and its dominance in the Baja 1000 race.

The vehicle's color, officially dubbed Molten Orange, is accented by a giant sticker on the truck bed that resembles a low-res mud splatter. Other touches are more successful, including unique front-end styling and functional air extractors.

Inside, the wild ride continues: The center console and seats have orange accents, and the steeling wheel has a stripe at the top center. That's no gimmick; it shows the center point of the truck's steering, helpful during racing maneuvers.

Looking every bit like a Baja racer, the Raptor is a beefy, burly athlete ready to take on the toughest terrain and tarmac thrown at it. But unlike many performance trucks that are mainly paint and decals, this one is the real deal.

Ford's team expanded the F-150's width 7 inches for better stability and revised the suspension. Engineers paid particular attention to adding suspension travel, important for off-road racing. But that doesn't always make for ideal on-road handling. So the team fitted the Raptor with shocks that stiffen as they travel to prevent bottoming out or undue bounce. The result is a truck that glides over objects but doesn't compromise ride and handling performance, on-road or off.

NUTS & BOLTS

What we say: Mad Max, your truck is ready
Pro: Surprisingly agile, extroverted styling
Con: A bit thirsty

Stats
Engine: 5.4-liter SOHC V8
Wheelbase: 130 inches
Length: 220.9 inches
Weight: 5,908 pounds
Bed length: 5.6 feet
Payload: 980 pounds
Towing capacity: 6,000 pounds
EPA rating (city/highway) : 14/18 mpg
Fuel consumption: 16 mpg
Base price: $38,020
As tested: $46,020

It's impressive. This truck is remarkably easy to live with. You'd expect a ride that would beat you up, but the Raptor proves remarkably supple. There's little of the bounce and rebound you'd expect with a truck with 11.2 inches of suspension travel up front and 12.1 inches in the rear.

The Raptor's menacing looks and robust ability are reinforced by the standard 5.4-liter V8, which delivers 320 horsepower and 390 foot-pounds of torque. An optional 400-horsepower 6.2-liter V8 will arrive shortly. A switch on the instrument panel engages four-wheel drive and an electronic locking differential. Handy.

There's the usual suite of electronic safety gear, including antilock brakes and stability control, which can be switched to a special off-road setting.

Other neat features include Sync (for synchronizing your iPod and mobile phone), a decent Sony audio system with satellite radio and a set of auxiliary toggle switches for activating aftermarket accessories.

Extra width aside, this is a truck for the off-road enthusiast but can be a daily driver, even if your off-road adventures go no further than an occasional romp to your favorite fishing spot.

The F-150 SVT Raptor is not for everyone. It is fun, a bit juvenile and appealing to those of us with a Y chromosome.

In other words, Mad Max, your truck is ready.

Rolling resistance not a deciding factor in picking tires

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: I will need new tires soon for our Volkswagen Jetta diesel, and I would like some recommendations, or a source where I can find that information.—Alex, Winter Park, Fla.

ANSWER: Alex, I answered your question the best I could via e-mail several months ago, but I've been holding onto it for publication pending further information, and we finally have some—well, sort of. The July Consumer Reports tested 25 tires, and the results are not that compelling. The idea is that a tire with less "rolling resistance"—that is, one that is able to roll down the road more easily than another—would require less engine power, and help save gas. The magazine rated only two tires as "excellent" for rolling resistance: The Michelin Energy Saver, which took second place overall, and the Uniroyal Tiger Paw Tour SR, which it rated just 17th overall, scoring poorly in handling and tread life.

At $120, that Michelin was the second most expensive tire in the test, with other tires prices as low as $67. So far, there just doesn't seem to be that much difference. Choose tires using other factors, the magazine suggested, and "use rolling resistance as a tiebreaker."

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Please settle a bet: How long have airbags been used in cars?

A: General Motors offered airbags as options on a handful of cars around 1974, but it wasn't until the mid-1980s that they became popular. They have been mandatory in cars since 1998.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

UNDER THE HOOD

How to maintain unused car battery

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I'm hoping to learn what it takes to keep a car battery charged during storage. After purchasing a new truck, my old one will be kept for occasional use and will be given to my son when he reaches driving age. Are the solar chargers you see any good, or should it be a plug-in charger?—Dave Conroy

ANSWER: This is a great question. In my day job as an automotive technology instructor, I face a similar issue, times 40. Some training vehicles in our fleet see regular use, while others sit for weeks, or even months at a time. Keeping the batteries charged is important, as a battery rapidly deteriorates if it loses charge (goes dead), even for a short period of time, and the cost of replacement batteries eats up funds that can be better used elsewhere.

There are two factors to contend with: self-discharge and vehicle parasitic drain. A typical automotive battery, with a clean upper surface between the posts, will maintain adequate charge for perhaps 9-12 months when stored. The vehicle it's installed in will drain the battery additionally, to maintain system memories such as engine computer RAM, clock and radio settings, and memories for a sometimes surprising number of additional vehicle modules. This is called parasitic drain, and is typically around 30-60 milliamps—about one-tenth of the current needed to illuminate a tail light.

Disconnecting the battery may be an acceptable choice for an older vehicle, but with a newer car or truck you may find it inconvenient to reestablish the lost settings and memories. The battery of a vehicle stored outdoors can be maintained with a solar charger, if it can be parked so that the solar panel sees 6 hours to 8 hours of direct sunlight daily. A common plug-in, 2-watt panel, usually around $25, should be adequate if your vehicle has minimal parasitic drain and there's lots of sun.

A more difficult application may require a 5 watt panel, at around $75, plus a charge controller at perhaps $35. The charge controller is recommended, as the larger panel could, under favorable light conditions, overcharge the battery, causing fluid loss. In either case, be sure your lighter socket is active with the ignition switch off. Otherwise, the solar panel leads will need to be attached directly to the battery. Also, I've found the solar panels we use prefer optimal aiming (propped up), and a clean windshield.

A plug-in charger may be a better choice if your parking location lacks adequate sun. Look for a smart charger rather than a trickle charger, to avoid overcharging. A popular choice is the Battery Tender Plus, at about $50. This 1.25-amp charger intelligently switches between three modes: charging, conditioning, then maintaining the battery for indefinite time periods. It can be mounted in the engine bay and left connected to the battery during vehicle use. Another great choice is the Schumacker SE-1-12S 1.5-amp automatic battery charger at about the same price. I've used this charger in some unfavorable outdoor applications and have found it to be tough as nails. Both of these chargers have modest maximum output. Should you someday encounter a deeply discharged battery, it might take as long as a day or two of charger operation before the battery is significantly recharged.

If it will be a few months or longer between gasoline fillings, it would be a good idea also to treat your gasoline with an application of STA-BIL or a similar product. Fuel stabilizers help minimize fuel oxidation and the gum and varnish that forms as the fuel becomes stale.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

AP timeline detail
Michael Jackson's last day

AP

In this May 6, 2009 image released courtesy of Michael Jackson, pop star Michael Jackson is shown in Los Angeles during rehearsals for his upcoming concert in London.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A year ago, the world watched as Michael Jackson balanced on the edge of a precipice. Behind the once-proclaimed King of Pop was a bleak stretch of pain and artistic decline. Ahead lay a series of 50 London concerts—a high-rolling bid to reassert his musical brilliance and re-establish control of his life.

Jackson was poised for a great leap of faith, one testing himself and those who believed in him. It was a chance to silence detractors who had mocked his increasingly clownish, artificial appearance and what appeared to be an equally artificial and veiled version of family life with the three children he was raising alone.

Harsher critics cast him as a man who used wealth and celebrity to elude justice on child molestation charges.

The elaborately staged shows set to begin last July 13 at London's famed O2 Arena represented winner take all, or lose all, for an entertainer who'd been famous for most of his 50 years.

He was ready. The audience was ready. Then he was gone. Less than three weeks before his new life may have started on a stage filled with special effects and song, the old one ended in a cloud of drugs and unfulfilled dreams.

Outwardly, Jackson had seemed fit as he prepared for the London shows, and his autopsy found he was in relatively strong physical condition for a man his age.

But privately, he was struggling with chronic insomnia that he battled with a regular regimen of powerful drugs.

In the year since Jackson's shockingly abrupt death on June 25, 2009, from an overdose of sedatives, a fuller picture of his last day has emerged. What follows is a comprehensive reconstruction of those final 24 hours by The Associated Press.

Exactly what happened during that time may never be known, as the only person with him was his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, who administered a series of drugs to help his patient sleep. Murray is due to stand trial later this year on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in Jackson's death.

But witness accounts and court documents agree: Jackson's final day started off like many others.

Early in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 24, Michael Jackson came down the stairs of his rented mansion and sat with his kids for what would be their last meal together.

He had a rehearsal later that night so he wanted to eat something light but sustaining. His personal chef, Kai Chase, prepared seared ahi tuna with an organic salad and a glass of carrot and orange juice.

"He smiled and put his hands together for a prayer," Chase said. "He said, 'Thank you, God bless you.'"

The singer, Chase recalled, looked well, seemed energized and was in a good mood.

Shortly before 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jackson left his eight-bedroom mansion at 100 North Carolwood Drive in Holmby Hills, an exclusive Los Angeles neighborhood sandwiched between Bel-Air and Beverly Hills.

He got into the back of a navy-blue Escalade driven by bodyguard Faheen Muhammad. His personal assistant, Michael Amir Williams, sat in the front.

They traveled downtown to the Staples Center, where Jackson and his team of musicians and dancers were in final rehearsals before heading to London. Jackson's logistics director, Alberto Alvarez, met the Escalade and drove Jackson in a golf cart to his dressing room.

Several people recalled Jackson being in good shape that night.

"He was completely enthused," said Dorian Holley, Jackson's longtime vocal director and a singer for the upcoming "This Is It" shows. "It was hard to discern any difference between his energy and his physicality between then and his earlier days."

Jackson went through several classic numbers, including "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," "Billie Jean," "Smooth Criminal," and "She's Out of My Life."

With an enormous monitor installed onstage, Jackson for the first time was shown video accompaniments to some of these songs, said Holley, who was standing beside Jackson during the rehearsal.

"It was eye-popping," Holley said. "He was grinning from ear to ear."

Tim Patterson, one of two cameramen who shot footage of the rehearsals and later helped edit it into the film "This Is It," recalled that Jackson was especially wowed by a 3-D segment on "Thriller" where a crystal ball floats out toward the audience.

"I remember Michael reached out and grabbed it," Patterson said. "He loved it."

Later that night, Jackson and his dancers performed "Thriller" on stage in full costume for the first time.

"His face said it all, he loved it," said Kriyss Grant, one of the dancers Jackson picked for the show.

Ken Ehrlich, an executive producer of the Grammys, went to the Staples Center to discuss with Jackson a Halloween special. Afterward, Ehrlich watched from the stadium floor as the rehearsal continued.

"He was really in good shape, he was very excited about the tour, very excited about getting it going," Ehrlich said. "He certainly didn't exhibit any signs of being tired or not being with it."

The rehearsal ended around midnight Wednesday night with a performance of "Earth Song." The singer hugged his dancers, thanked the crew and wished them a good night. "God bless you," Patterson and Grant recalled him saying.

Jackson returned to Carolwood Drive, stopping briefly at its metal gate to greet a small group of fans who had gathered outside his home.

As they pulled into the driveway, the bodyguard Muhammad noticed Dr. Murray's car parked outside the home, just as it had been many nights previously.

Jackson's security personnel escorted him into the house and to the foot of the stairs. No one, except for Murray and Jackson's children, was allowed upstairs.

Soon after Jackson arrived home, he started complaining of fatigue and that he needed sleep.

Murray, according to a police affidavit, was concerned Jackson was addicted to propofol, a powerful anesthetic normally used only in medical settings with special equipment on hand. He told police he was trying to wean Jackson from propofol and had not given him the drug for two nights.

At around 1:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, he again tried this approach, giving Jackson a 10-milligram Valium tablet. The anti-anxiety medication had no immediate effect and about a half hour later, the doctor gave 2 milligrams of lorazepam, another medication from the same family as Valium, administered through a saline drip.

When Jackson remained awake, Murray administered a 2-milligram dose of midazolam, another sedative, at 3 a.m., then another 2 milligrams of lorazepam at 5 a.m.

By 7:30 a.m., Jackson remained awake. Murray told police he injected another 2 milligrams of midazolam into Jackson's drip.

Still, Jackson could not sleep.

He lay restlessly on the white sheets of his renaissance-style double bed with a curlicued headboard. Beside him, investigators would later find a porcelain doll in the likeness of a little blond boy. Several oxygen bottles were by the door and on the night stand beside the bed was a stack of DVDs, including children's films.

Authorities would also note how untidy and warm Jackson's living quarters were. Jackson kept his inner sanctum fully heated, even though it was early summer in Los Angeles.

After experiencing a sleepless night, Murray said Jackson made repeated demands for propofol, a white liquid drug he sometimes would refer to as his "milk." Around 10:40 a.m. Thursday, Murray said he gave in to Jackson's demands and pushed 25 milligrams of the substance into Jackson's drip.

The chronology comes from a June 27 police interview with Murray, though the doctor's lawyer, Ed Chernoff, has contested investigators' interpretation of events. Chernoff declined to comment for this story.

Murray remained with the sedated singer for about 10 minutes, then left for the bathroom, the affidavit stated. Less than two minutes later, Murray returned—and found Jackson not breathing.

Phone logs show Murray made at least three calls between 11:18 and 11:51 a.m.—to his Las Vegas clinic, a patient, and a friend.

When Murray discovered Jackson was not breathing, he called the personal assistant Williams and at 12:13 left a message saying, "Call me right away, call me right away," according to a statement obtained by AP. Williams called back and Murray said: "Get here right away, Mr. Jackson had a bad reaction. He had a bad reaction."

Williams called Muhammad, then Alvarez, who was located in a security trailer outside the house. Alvarez told investigators he rushed upstairs and entered a bedroom to find the singer lying on a bed with his arms outstretched and his eyes and

See AP on Page 20

Mother: Michael Jackson's children to go to school

LONDON (AP)—Michael Jackson's mother Katherine is quoted as saying that the late pop star's children will attend school for the first time later this year.

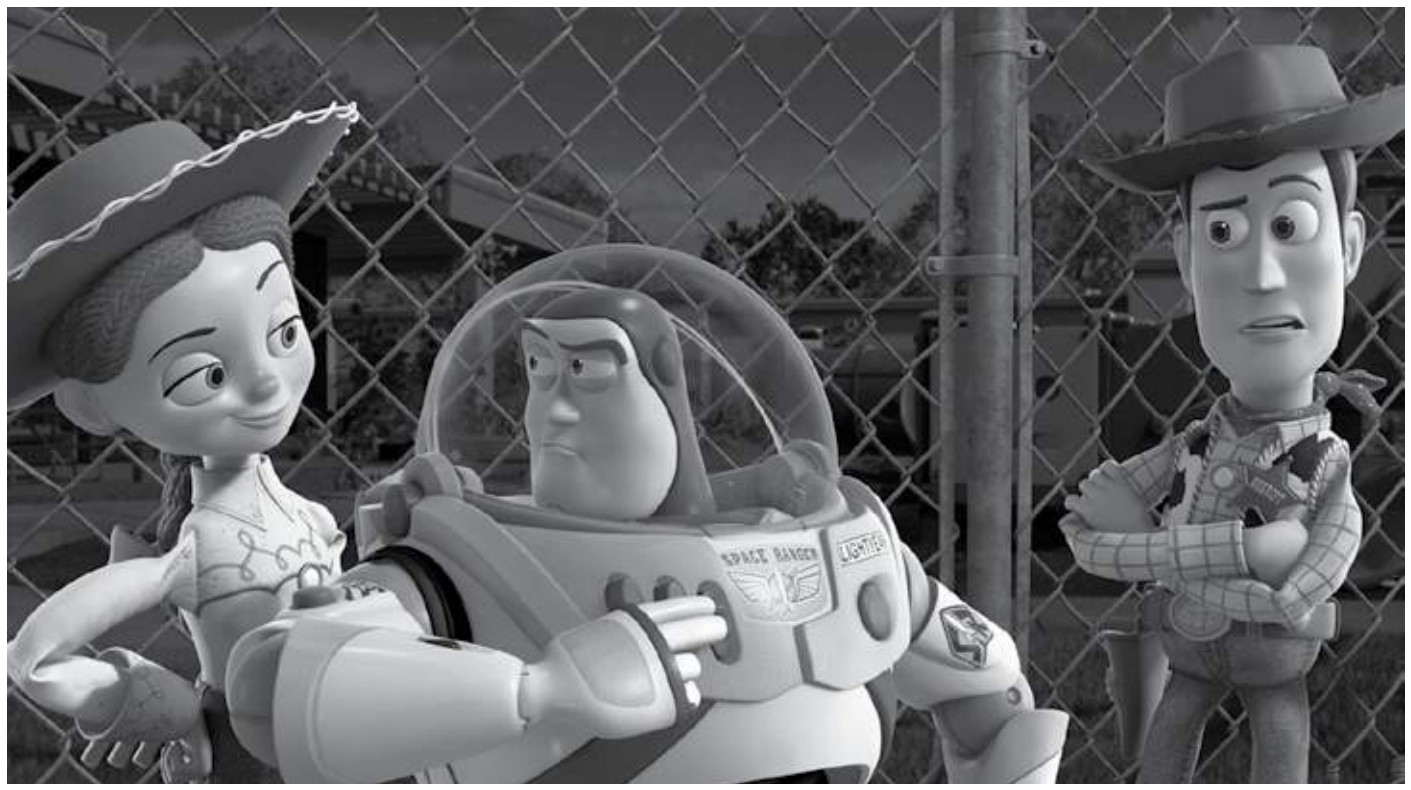
The 80-year-old told Britain's Mail on Sunday tabloid that Jackson's three children—Prince, 13, Paris, 12, and Blanket, 8—have had private lessons up until now.

The paper quoted Katherine Jackson as saying that the children would go to an unidentified private school starting in September.

The children have been in their grandmother's care since the singer died in June.

‘Toy Story 3’ finds big play time with $109M debut

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER



AP
In this file film publicity image released by Disney, from left, Jessie, voiced by Joan Cusack, Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Tim Allen and Woody, voiced by Tom Hanks are shown in a scene from, “Toy Story 3.”

Movie fans have not outgrown the “Toy Story 3” gang.

The animated sequel about toys that come to life leaped to the No. 1 spot with a $109 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Toy Story 3” became the third animated film to top $100 million in the first weekend, joining “Shrek the Third” at $121.6 million and “Shrek 2” at $108 million.

It was by far the best debut for a film from Disney’s Pixar Animation, topping “The Incredibles” at $70.5 million.

Reuniting voice stars Tom Hanks and Tim Allen, the movie has Woody the cowboy, Buzz Lightyear and their toy pals facing their mortality, worried they will end up on the scrap heap now that their kid has grown up.

“Whether you’re a kid or a parent, you always come to a fork in the road where you make the decision of what to do about your toys. Therein lies the appeal of the movie,” said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

That, and the fact that Woody, Buzz and the gang have become like family to “Toy Story” fans, he said.

“Somehow these characters have worked their way in. When you go there, you can see the audience is vested in the movie from the start. It doesn’t take any time to warm up. The minute it hits the screen, they’re in,” Viane said.

“Toy Story 3” took over the No. 1 spot from Sony’s “The Karate Kid,” which pulled in $29 million to raise its 10-day total to $106.3 million.

“Toy Story 3” took in an additional $44.8 million overseas, giving it a worldwide total of $153.8 million. The movie has opened in such countries as Mexico, Argentina and China but will not debut in most major foreign markets until July and August.

The film also maintains the perfect track record of Pixar, whose 11 films all have opened at No. 1, starting with the original “Toy Story” in 1995 and continuing with such hits as “Finding Nemo,” ‘’Ratatouille,” ‘’WALL-E” and last year’s “Up.”

“Disney-Pixar is the best box-office insurance policy you can have,” said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. “It’s a brand that just resonates with audiences. If they go to a Pixar movie, they know they’re going to be entertained. They’re going to have a great time and also get a message. There’s always a positive lesson you walk away with.”

In limited release, Fox Searchlight’s comedy “Cyrus” debuted strongly with $180,289 in four theaters, averaging $45,072 a cinema, compared to $27,061 in 4,028 locations for “Toy Story 3.”

“Cyrus” stars John C. Reilly, Marisa Tomei and Jonah Hill in the tale of a man whose new romance is jeopardized by his girlfriend’s grown son, who wants his mom to himself. The film gradually expands to nationwide release through mid-July.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. ***“Toy Story 3,”*** $109 million.
2. ***“The Karate Kid,”*** $29 million.
3. ***“The A-Team,”*** $13.8 million.
4. ***“Get Him to the Greek,”*** $6.1 million.
5. ***“Shrek Forever After,”*** $5.5 million.
6. ***“Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time,”*** $5.3 million.
7. ***“Killers,”*** $5.1 million.
8. ***“Jonah Hex,”*** $5.09 million.
9. ***“Iron Man 2,”*** $2.7 million.
10. ***“Marmaduke,”*** $2.65 million.

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Toy Story 3
Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tom Hanks, Tim Allen
Fantasy, Children’s, Family • Rated G
Synopsis
Pixar returns to their first success with Toy Story 3. The movie begins with Andy leaving for college and donating his beloved toys—including Woody (Tom Hanks) and Buzz (Tim Allen)—to a daycare. While the crew meets new friends, including Ken (Michael Keaton), they soon grow to hate their new surroundings and plan an escape.

Jonah Hex
Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:30 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:05 7:30
Josh Brolin, Megan Fox
Western • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
1970s-era DC antihero Jonah Hex makes his way to the big screen as Crank co-writers Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor team to follow the disfigured gunslinger and part-time bounty hunter on his biggest adventure yet. Supernatural elements combine with Western aesthetics to take viewers on a wild and bloody ride, with Josh Brolin leading the way as Hex and John Malkovich stepping into the villainous role of Turnbull.

The Karate Kid
Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Jackie Chan, Jaden Smith
Drama • Rated PG

The A-Team
Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated PG 13

The Prince of Persia
Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Marmaduke
Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:30 7:10
Owen Wilson, George Lopez
Children’s, Family • Rated PG

Killers
Friday & Saturday 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 7:20
Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl
Thriller • Rated PG

Shrek: The Final Chapter
Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:10
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:10
Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

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AP

From Page 19

mouth open.

At his side, Murray was administering CPR with one hand.

“Alberto, Alberto, come quickly,” Murray said, according to the statement. “He had a reaction, he had a bad reaction.”

In a proposed contract with concert promoter AEG, Murray had asked for a heart resuscitation machine and a nurse as a condition of treating Jackson. Neither was in place when the singer died.

Two of Jackson’s children, Prince and Paris, came in the room, crying as they saw Murray trying to save their father. They were quickly escorted outside.

Alvarez told investigators that Murray asked him to pick up a few vials with rubber tops and put them in a bag. It was only after these bottles had been cleared that Murray told Alvarez to call 911.

“I need an ambulance as soon as possible,” Alvarez told a dispatcher. “We have a gentleman here that needs help and he’s not breathing.”

They put Jackson on the floor, then Muhammad rushed into the room and began helping with chest compressions while Murray attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

By 12:27 p.m. on Thursday, paramedics had arrived. They later wrote Jackson was not breathing and had no pulse at 12:29 p.m.

However, Murray stated he could feel a weak pulse in Jackson’s upper thigh area, Alvarez and Muhammad said. No one else felt it.

A paramedic report stated that emergency responders tried two rounds of resuscitation attempts and were ready to discontinue treatment, but Murray said he would take responsibility and insisted resuscitation be continued in the ambulance.

The stricken star was taken the short distance to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center at 1:07 p.m., when doctors tried a range of resuscitation techniques, including the insertion of a balloon pump designed to move blood around his body.

Jackson was pronounced dead at 2:26 p.m.

After the death was called, Murray started crying, Williams told investigators.

He told the Jackson children that their father had passed away, then asked to return to the house.

“Is there any way I can go home, or be taken to the house,” the doctor said, according to Alvarez’s statement. “I want to get my car, and I’m hungry.”

Williams said he didn’t think it was a good idea for Murray to return to the house. He spoke to Muhammad and they concocted a story that police had taken all the keys to the vehicles.

Murray indicated he would take a cab, and Williams said he saw him leave the hospital through a side door.

Williams told Muhammad to call security at the home and make sure no one got into the house.

“Lock it down,” Williams said.

Christie's to auction rare Faulkner collection

By SHELIA BYRD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

OXFORD, Mississippi (AP)—A rare auction of signed William Faulkner books and personal items has drawn international interest, but few on the town square of the author's hometown were aware of the bidding set for Tuesday at Christie's in New York.

It's not as if Oxford's famous son is forgotten at home. Inside Off Square Books, a poster of the fiercely private writer hangs on an entrance wall. Down the street is the home where Faulkner's mother lived and nearby is Rowan Oak, the author's Greek Revival house owned and operated as a museum by the University of Mississippi. Rowan Oak draws about 26,000 visitors each year.

Bill Griffith, Rowan Oak's curator, is among those who would love to own Faulkner's Canadian Royal Air Force Uniform or signed, first editions of some his works. Griffith, however, said tight finances won't allow him to place a bid.

"We're hopeful it goes well for folks in Mississippi who are interested. Most of this stuff is first class. It's what we would love to curate," Griffith said.

The auction could be the last chance to acquire such a large collection of the Noble Prize-winning author's work, said Louis Daniel Brodsky, a poet and Faulkner scholar, who lives in St. Louis.

Brodsky, who donated his own private collection to the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University, said he once owned the extremely rare copy of Faulkner's first novel, "Soldier's Pay," in a dust jacket that's part of the lot up for auction.

"There are five of those known," he said.

Also included in the collection are signed copies of "The Wild Palms" and "Absalom, Absalom!" In keeping with common auction house practice, Christie's didn't identify the owner, but said he was an American.

A few items offer a glimpse into the personal side of the author, whose stream of consciousness writings explored the complicated social system of the South.

Ironically, Faulkner likely would have cringed to know his personal items are to be part of a public bidding war, Griffith said.

"I think he would be shocked that a telegram to his daughter is going up for auction for $2,000," Griffith said. "When I first took over as curator, I thought his privacy thing was a little coy, but he was serious about it. He wanted to be left alone."

In his 1936 Western Union telegram to his 3-year-old daughter, Faulkner wished her "plenty of ghosts, goblins, witches and cats and owls on Halloween."

In a 1951 copy of "Sartoris," Faulkner scribbled, "For Joan, it was all for her, even while she was asleep." The author was referring to the writer Joan Williams, with whom he had an affair.

With a 1954 Mississippi State hunting and fishing license, Faulkner issued a warning for hunters not to shoot other sportsmen or squirrels on an accompanying, typed and signed document.

Christie's said the lot is a nearly complete representation of Faulkner's work. The estimated values range from $1,200 for a British first edition of "Sanctuary" to $120,000 for a presentation copy of "The Marble Faun" that Faulkner inscribed to his mother and father. The book also was dedicated to his mother.

The lot of 90 items is expected to bring more than $1 million.

Gaga OK at Yankee Stadium, no clubhouse after loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga can still play Yankee Stadium—she's just gotta follow the ground rules.

The outlandish pop singer talked her way past security and visited the Yankees clubhouse after the team lost to the New York Mets on Friday night.

The New York Post reported Sunday that Yankees co-chairman Hal Steinbrenner was upset with Lady Gaga's antics and permanently barred her from the locker room.

"She's not banned," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said Sunday. "Celebrities aren't banned. If Michael Jordan showed up here he would have access (to the clubhouse), but not after a loss."

While in the clubhouse, she reportedly drank whiskey while wearing a bikini bottom and a pinstriped jersey that was unbuttoned to reveal her bra. Several Yankees, including Robinson Cano and Alex Rodriguez visited with her.

AP

Entertainer Lady Gaga, left, stands for "God Bless America" during the seventh inning stretch as the New York Yankees play the New York Mets in a baseball game Friday, June 18, 2010 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

"That was the wrong time and the wrong place," Cashman said. "It's been taken care of."

Cashman said it was "not her fault."

About two weeks ago Lady Gaga, who grew up a Yankees fan, attended a game at Citi Field and made an obscene gesture while being photographed.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Actor Robert Downey Jr. honored in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago has honored actor Robert Downey Jr. with its Renaissance Award. The Academy Award-nominated actor was in Chicago on Saturday to accept the award. The center says it chose to honor the 45-year-old Downey because he is "one of the most respected and versatile actors of his generation." Downey gave an interview to director Todd Phillips, saying three of his movies are the "most representative" of his work, "Tropic Thunder," ''Sherlock Holmes" and "Iron Man." He won a Golden Globe for "Sherlock Holmes." The actor also says he's moved on from drug and alcohol abuse. Downey is to star in the Phillips-directed movie "Due Date" as a first-time dad trying to make it home in time for the birth of his baby.

Cole Porter's 'Anything Goes' gets B'way revival

NEW YORK (AP)—Composer and songwriter Cole Porter returns to Broadway next season with the Roundabout Theater Company's revival of "Anything Goes." Tony Award winner Sutton Foster stars as sassy nightclub singer Reno Sweeney. Artistic director Todd Haimes calls Foster one of the most versatile women on Broadway. He calls her a "true triple threat who will be able to act, sing and dance this role as no one else could." Foster originated Broadway roles from Millie Dillmount in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" to Princess Fiona in "Shrek the Musical." Tony winner Kathleen Marshall will direct and choreograph. Timothy Crouse and John Weidman supply the new book. "Anything Goes" will begin performances in February at a yet-to-be-announced theater.

Jimmy Buffett plans free concert on Alabama beach

GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP)—Jimmy Buffett and a few of his friends plan to give a free concert on the Alabama coast to show support for the Gulf region. Alabama tourism director Lee Sentell says show will be July 1 on the beach at Gulf Shores. Buffett's website says the concert is meant to demonstrate support for the people, businesses and culture of the Gulf Coast. It will be broadcast live on CMT. Buffett and his Coral Reefer Band will be joined in Gulf Shores by Sonny Landreth, Zac Brown Band, Kenny Chesney, Jesse Winchester and Allen Toussaint. A special souvenir T-shirt will be designed for the concert. It will be available online and at the show.

James Taylor, Carole King raise $1.5M for charity

BOSTON (AP)—Grammy winners James Taylor and Carole King are announcing that they have raised more than $1.5 million in charitable donations so far on their "Troubadour Reunion" tour. Taylor and King are holding a news conference Sunday before their show at the TD Garden in Boston to present donations raised through the halfway point of the North American leg of the tour to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and other charities. The $1.5 million raised so far is 50 percent more than the singer-songwriters had anticipated. The money is being raised through special packages offered to fans, including stage seating, pre-show soundcheck sessions, private VIP receptions and a commemorative tour book.

Boyfriend's Valentine roses got a joyful second bloom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Grinched in Iowa" (April 14) was upset that his girlfriend gave his Valentine roses to a stranger after he spent more than $82 on them. Several years ago, when my father was ill with cancer, he sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers to my mother. When I saw them, I commented on how pretty they were and, half-jokingly, asked if they wanted to make another person as happy as they had made my mom. I explained that my friend Patty was having a hard time coping with the fact her dad and mother-in-law both had cancer. My parents said, "Take them!"

Patty burst into tears when she saw me arrive with the flowers. I think "Grinched" should quit being such a grouch and be thankful for having a compassionate, caring girlfriend.

SHELLEY IN MUSKEGON, MICH.

DEAR SHELLEY: Thank you for reminding me to "smell the roses." While I sympathized, in part, with "Grinched," readers' responses heavily favored his girlfriend. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Whether that guy spent $8 or $82, the flowers will die in a week. Sending flowers is an expression of love, and it is the ACT that brings joy to the recipient. Whether the bouquet or the memory of his generosity continues to bring joy is immaterial. He should be thrilled to have a girlfriend who is so full of love and joy she wanted to share that feeling and bring the same happiness to another couple.

"Grinch's" girlfriend should now decide if she wants to be with a guy who is more concerned about the money than the sentiment.

PEEVED WITH HIM IN CANADA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Grinched's" girlfriend is too dumb to have thought about what you suggested. ("She could have given the stranger one or two of the roses...") He should drop her quicker than petals drop from a rose!

JON IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You should have set "Grinched" straight instead of coddling him. If he had any brains he would have married his girlfriend on the spot. Any woman who is so selfless she would give her gift to another person in need is someone he should hang onto and never let go. Perhaps he is too blind and emotionally insecure to realize this loving woman would treat HIM the same way.

RANDY IN TROY, MICH.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Maybe she was trying to tell him she did not want any roses. Could it be time for a ring?

JILL IN EUGENE, ORE.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Grinched's" gift did what it was supposed to do—show his girlfriend he cared. When the roses were passed along to another person, his gift benefited three people instead of just one. In this day and age, we need more kindness.

LISA IN AKRON, OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The roses had already served their purpose. The girlfriend was able to see how much he cared for her, as were her co-workers. (Why else would he send them to her at work?) Once she took them home, the roses would have sat in a vase until it was time to throw them out. Instead, they brought joy a second time, and she proved herself to be a compassionate, sensitive person who knew how to embrace the true spirit of Valentine's Day.

MAUREEN IN MANCHESTER, N.H.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Roses: $82. Groceries: $37. A relationship with someone who would reach out with concern to someone in need: Priceless!

HARLEY IN LAS CRUCES, N.M.

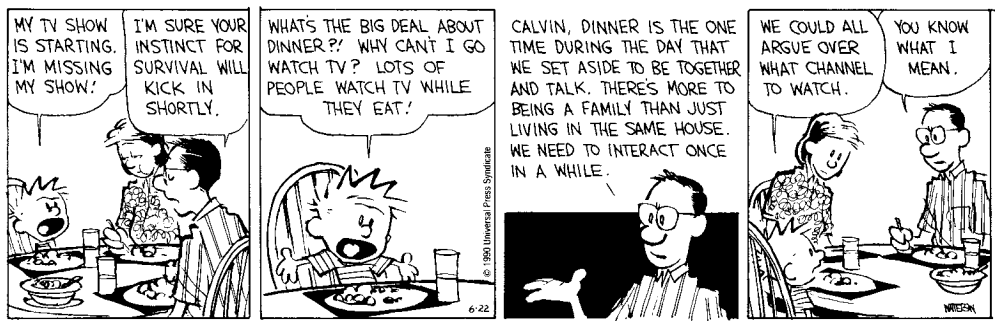
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY TV SHOW IS STARTING. I'M MISSING MY SHOW!
I'M SURE YOUR INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL WILL KICK IN SHORTLY.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DINNER?! WHY CAN'T I GO WATCH TV? LOTS OF PEOPLE WATCH TV WHILE THEY EAT!
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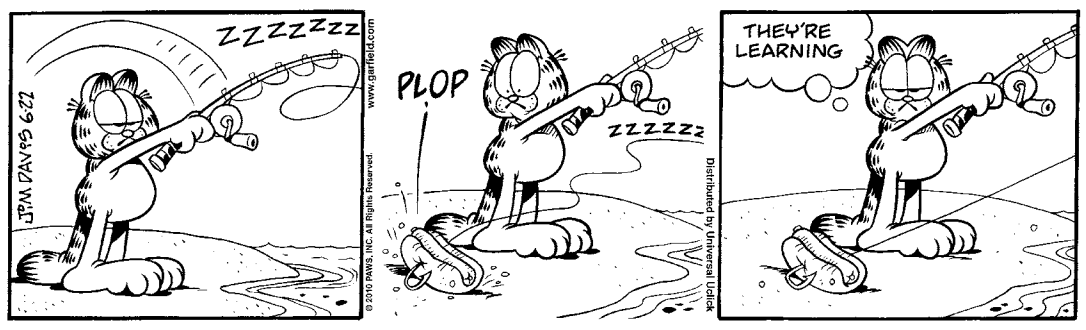
6-22
CALVIN, DINNER IS THE ONE TIME DURING THE DAY THAT WE SET ASIDE TO BE TOGETHER AND TALK. THERE'S MORE TO BEING A FAMILY THAN JUST LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE. WE NEED TO INTERACT ONCE IN A WHILE.
WE COULD ALL ARGUE OVER WHAT CHANNEL TO WATCH.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



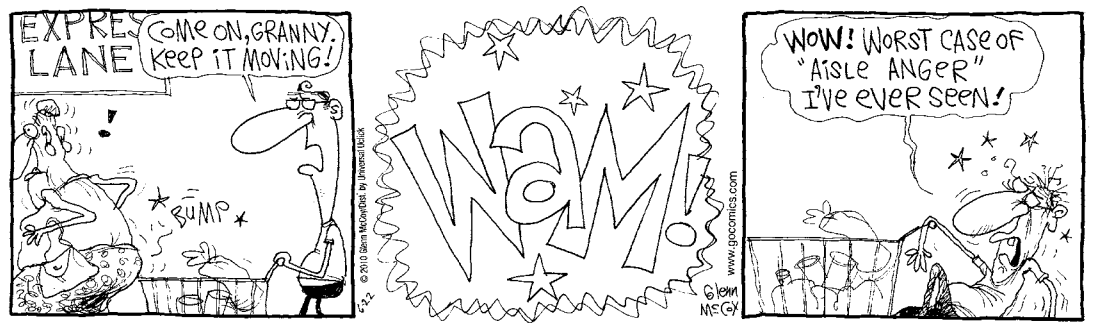
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, SO THIS WEEK THE KIDS ARE GOING TO CAMP.
RIGHT. KATY TO BALLET. NICK TO SWIM. CLAYTON TO COMPUTER.
NOW, WHAT ABOUT ME?
WORK CAMP.
WORK CAMP? THAT SOUNDS HARSH.
HERE. I BOUGHT YOU SOME MARSHMALLOWS. TAKE THEM TO YOUR DESK WITH YOU.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
HARSH, BUT FAIR.
6-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

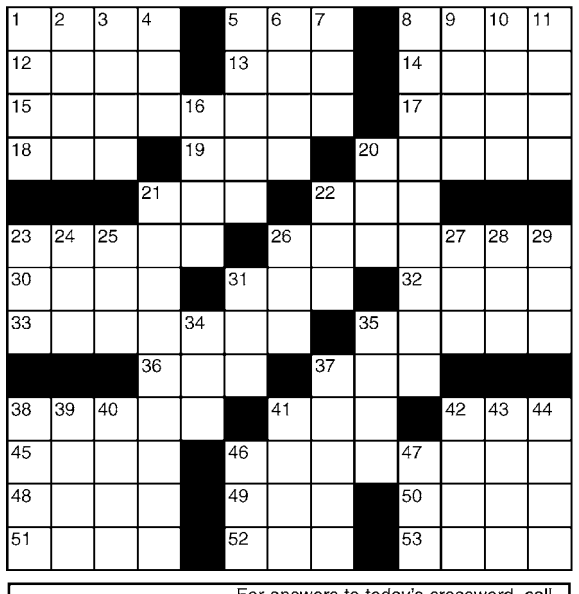
ACROSS
1 Bedouin
5 Spade or club, e.g.
8 Tel —
12 Pop flavor
13 "Born in the —"
14 Tardy
15 Blissful
17 Springlike melody
18 Moines preceder
19 Donkey
20 Dessert "there's always room for"
21 Not post-
22 Gear tooth
23 Passport endorse-ments
26 Re a city's leader
30 Hebrew month
31 Poke
32 Portrayal
33 In the not-too-distant future
35 Handle effectively
36 Joke
37 Pouch
38 The fifth element
41 Trench
42 Sapporo sash
45 Unoriginal one
46 Dating from long past
48 Indian princess
49 Blond shade
50 Frail
51 United nations
52 Tackle moguls
53 Inquisitive

DOWN
1 Served perfectly
2 Libertine
3 Swiss range
4 "Hum-bug!"
5 Pocket-book
6 Wife of Osiris
7 Lobbying grp.
8 Having hidden spiritual meaning
9 Colorado skiing mecca
10 "— have to do"
11 Kill a bill
16 Galley supply
20 Happi-ness
21 Pain reliever
22 Taxi
23 Anatom-ical duct
24 Bache-lor's last words
25 "Casa-blanca" pianist
26 Potentially will
27 Shad product
28 The whole enchilada
29 Started
31 Binge
34 Rose-anne's TV hubby
35 Lightbulb measure
37 Cold rice recipe
38 Zinger
39 October birthstone
40 Nevada city
41 Put on the line
42 Sandwich cookie
43 Prejudice
44 Gross
46 Possesses
47 Possess

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	O	W			W	O	K		Q	U	A	D
I	R	A	Q		A	D	O		U	R	G	E
M	E	N	U		S	I	R		A	N	O	N
P	L	E	A	T		N	E	A	R			
			R	A	G		A	S	T	E	R	N
P	A	L	T	R	O	W		S	E	P	I	A
A	L	O	E		D	E	B		R	E	L	Y
L	E	A	R	N		B	U	S	H	E	L	S
M	E	M	B	E	R		G	O	O			
			A	T	O	M		B	R	A	W	N
D	I	S	C		O	A	K		S	U	R	E
N	O	O	K		S	K	I		E	T	A	S
A	N	T	S		T	E	X			O	P	T

Yesterday's answer 6-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carson Daly, 37; Cyndi Lauper, 57; Meryl Streep, 61; Todd Rundgren, 62

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will stop you from getting ahead if you don't deal with matters quickly and move on. Opportunities will pass you by if you can't let go of the past. Forward thinking is the only answer to getting ahead. Speak up and take control of your life before you look back with regrets. Your numbers are 4, 11, 16, 21, 26, 35, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll get into trouble if you act impulsively or you are overindulgent. Keep your thoughts to yourself when dealing with personal issues involving a partner. You'll meet with resistance if you try to force your will on others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take your time and be sure of what's required of you before you start something new or begin a partnership. Use past experience, coupled with observations and you will come up with an alternative that works for you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be misquoted or give the impression you are offering something you are not. Feeling rundown due to emotional troubles is likely, so leave time to put your feet up and digest everything that's happened. Recap and strategize. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will have fun if you take part in an activity or event that brings you in contact with people having similar interests. Some of the uncertainties that you may be experiencing in your personal life can be turned around, if you are discuss your feelings openly. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Have alternative plans in place in case someone pulls a last-minute cancellation. Adaptability and diversification will keep you moving forward and accomplishing your goals. Don't let a relationship that isn't working cause you to miss out on something you really want to do. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't get bogged down with details when there are more important opportunities being made available to you. You shouldn't take a financial risk. Recognize and take part in a safe, long-term investment. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't make a move or decision just because someone wants you to. Do what works best for you and refuse to let anyone bully you. Your ideas will be innovative. Don't feel that someone else has better alternatives. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional ups and downs may cloud your vision but, if you can wrap your head around some of your creative endeavors, you will make progress. Refrain from traveling unless it promises to enhance, inspire or motivate you for something you are working on. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your plans and strategy well hidden or someone may take advantage of your openness and steal your ideas. A partnership with someone who shares your opinion has potential but must be handled with care. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Share your opinions and you can change the way others think of you and your plans. Push a financial, legal or contractual deal through. Misdirection regarding a job you are doing is likely. Find out what's required before you start. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Deception and personal problems are apparent if you let your heart decide your fate. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet someone but do your research and find out who is good for you and who isn't. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Putting more time, effort and energy into your job will bring rewards and ensure security. Helping a friend is fine but consider what type of assistance you are willing to give—making suggestions, lending a hand or a cash injection. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have courage and the will to follow your dreams. You are creative, soft and sentimental, and pushy when necessary.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5				1	6			2
			7	4	8			
		3				6		
6	7						9	
1	5						6	3
	4						8	7
		1				4		
			9	5	7			
8			4	6				9

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	5	2	9	6	7	4	3
4	7	9	3	1	5	2	6	8
6	3	2	8	7	4	5	1	9
9	5	1	7	8	3	6	2	4
8	6	7	9	4	2	3	5	1
2	4	3	6	5	1	8	9	7
3	9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6
7	2	8	1	6	9	4	3	5
5	1	6	4	3	7	9	8	2

Difficulty Level ★ 6/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'CRIMINAL MINDS' (THE TV SERIES) **Solution: 12 letters**

S	U	N	I	T	S	U	J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R
C	R	O	I	E	C	I	L	O	P	S	O	L	V	E
I	O	E	T	I	R	W	B	R	S	E	E	K	N	I
E	I	D	L	N	S	A	O	O	Y	V	C	I	E	D
N	V	I	S	L	S	F	R	B	C	A	L	T	I	L
T	A	G	G	I	I	S	M	O	H	N	O	R	A	A
I	H	G	C	L	T	K	E	M	O	R	G	A	N	R
F	E	E	I	C	N	S	D	B	L	A	W	S	S	U
I	B	N	R	O	E	A	I	E	O	I	D	P	A	D
C	G	I	W	A	R	N	A	R	G	D	E	E	T	E
F	M	U	T	O	P	S	I	I	I	N	R	C	A	C
E	A	S	S	I	S	T	T	M	C	R	E	I	N	O
I	P	E	N	E	L	O	P	E	A	R	K	A	I	R
H	O	T	C	H	N	E	R	J	L	X	A	L	C	P
C	N	I	R	E	C	N	E	D	I	V	E	G	E	D

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Aaron, Asks, Assist, Basic, Behavior, Bomber, Chief, Crime, Derek, Erin, Evidence, Examine, Garcia, Genius, Gideon, Hack, Hotchner, Jarreau, Jennifer, Just, Killers, Know, Laws, Media, Morgan, Online, Penelope, Police, Prentiss, Procedural, Profiling, Psychological, Raid, Reid, Rossi, Satanic, Scientific, Seek, Solve, Special, Spencer, Spot, Unit, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Tri-City

Treasury 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Behind enemy lines

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board.
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Attorney for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, Plaintiff, vs. ALBERT U. CHARFAUROS and FRANCISCA C. CHARFAUROS, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0481 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U. Charfauros and Francisca C. Charfauros' interests in Lot 001 G 151, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Monday, June 28, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O' Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 151, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04, the original of which was recorded 27 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 11th of June, 2010.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
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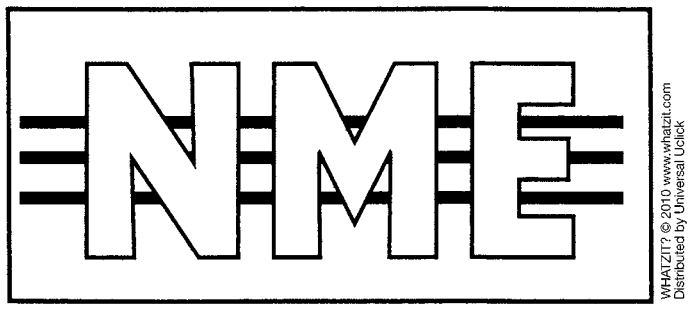

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Italy held to another draw, Brazil advances

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP SPORTS WRITER

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Four-time champion Italy was on the wrong end of the latest surprising result at this year's World Cup, held to a 1-1 draw Sunday by New Zealand. Brazil had no such trouble, advancing to the round of 16 with a 3-1 win over Ivory Coast.

The defending champion Italians got their only goal in the Group F match in Nelspruit from the penalty spot, further exposing the team's lack of finishing power up front.

In the other group match, Paraguay beat Slovakia 2-0 in Bloemfontein.

New Zealand took the early lead against Italy when Shane Smeltz tapped in a ball that had glanced off defender Fabio Cannavaro. It was New Zealand's only shot on goal the entire match.

Vincenzo Iaquinta equalized in the 29th from the penalty spot after Tommy Smith brought down Daniele De Rossi in the area.

"Once again the opponent scored on their first chance," Italy coach Marcello Lippi said. "We were able to control the game after that, but this was a match we should have won."

New Zealand is playing at only its second World Cup. The Kiwis lost all three matches in 1982, but have two points from two matches this time—the same as Italy.

AP

New Zealand's Shane Smeltz, top, scores during the World Cup group F soccer match between Italy and New Zealand at Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit, South Africa, Sunday, June 20, 2010.

"I think that stopped the nation," New Zealand coach Ricki Herbert said. "It's the most incredible result we've had across the board. As a football coach, it's way above anything we've achieved in the history of the game."

At Soccer City, Luis Fabiano scored two goals and Elano added the other as the five-time champion Brazilians dominated possession for most of the match.

Luis Fabiano gave Brazil the lead in the 25th minute with a hard shot from close range that easily beat Ivory Coast goalkeeper Boubacar Barry. He added another in the 50th, but television replays showed that the Brazil striker handled the ball at least once, maybe twice.

"It's difficult to deal with Fabiano, but it's even more difficult if he's allowed to use his hands," Ivory Coast coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said. "They got a goal free. That's a 2-nil goal—that changed everything."

Luis Fabiano later admitted that it bounced off his hand.

"It's true, the ball really touched my hand and then my shoulder," Luis Fabiano said. "But it was involuntary. It was one of the greatest goals I've scored in my career."

Elano scored the third goal in the 62nd, but Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba pulled one back in the 79th with a header. Elano was carried off on a stretcher just a few minutes later with an ankle injury after a tough tackle.

Drogba was playing in his second match since breaking his right arm in a warmup match on June 4. He came on as a late substitute in Ivory Coast's 0-0 draw with Portugal on Tuesday.

Kaka was sent off with two yellow cards, the second coming in the 88th minute after Kader Keita ran into the Brazil playmaker and then fell to the ground clutching his face.

"The red card was completely unfair," Brazil coach Dunga said.

Enrique Vera and Cristian Riveros each scored for Paraguay, which leads the group with four points after an opening 1-1 with the Italians.

Vera scored the first goal in the 27th minute, taking a pass from Lucas Barrios and slipping it past Slovakia goalkeeper Jan Mucha.

"It was lucky that I could score," said Vera, who was named man of the match. "The first goal came at the best moment in the first half and then we wanted to keep possession of the ball and the second goal made us calm."

Riveros added the second goal in the 86th with a left-footed shot.

In France's camp, chaos erupted again as the players refused to train in protest against Nicolas Anelka's expulsion from the squad.

Anelka directed a a profanity-laced tirade at coach Raymond Domenech, and after refusing to apologize, was booted from the team.

The players said in a statement read by Domenech that the French federation did not try to protect the group. "As a consequence and to show our opposition to the decision taken by officials of the federation, all the players decided not to take part in today's training session," Domenech read from the statement.

France team director Jean-Louis Valentin resigned amid the trouble.

"It's a scandal for the French, for the young people here. It's a scandal for the federation and the French team," Valentin said. "They don't want to train. It's unacceptable.

"As for me, it's over. I'm leaving the federation. I'm sickened and disgusted," said Valentin, who walked away from the training field, got into a car and drove off.

Also, the man who allegedly intruded on the England team's dressing room after a World Cup match was released on bail and ordered to appear in a Cape Town court on Monday.

US wants to stop falling back at World Cup

IRENE, South Africa (AP)—Maybe the U.S. needs to install a private scoreboard in its locker room, one that it can control.

Just before the match starts, it could flash that the Americans are losing "1-0." Or maybe even "2-0." Just to inspire themselves before the anthems and opening whistle.

For some inexplicable reason, one that eludes the players, the U.S. doesn't start to assert itself in most games until after it trails by a goal or two.

That certainly is a recipe for trouble.

"It's something that's been with this team for a number of years now, and it's not something we enjoy," goalkeeper Tim Howard said Sunday. "Don't get me wrong. No one likes going behind in a game, But for whatever reason, we seem to be very, very resilient and we start to play more to our strengths when we get desperate."

The U.S. gave up a fourth-minute goal to England and fought back on Clint Dempsey's goal for a 1-1 tie. After falling behind by two goals to Slovenia, the Americans tied it on goals by Landon Donovan and Michael Bradley and nearly went ahead, only to have Maurice Edu's goal disallowed in a 2-2 draw.

"The funny thing is, we talk about, you know, don't concede early," captain Carlos Bocanegra said. "And man, it's been our trademark lately, conceding early."

For this team, "fall behind" doesn't mean the end of Daylight Savings Time. It's the regular pattern. The U.S. gave up the first goal in six of 10 final-round qualifiers last year.

But trailing creates steep odds in the World Cup, when teams with leads turn defensive and drop eight, nine, 10 players behind the ball—like turtles retreating into their shells, hoping shots will bounce away to safety. It's akin to the Italian system of "catenaccio," which translates to "door bolt."

Of 160 teams that fell behind 1-0 in World Cup matches from 1998-06, just 21 rallied to win and 36 others gained ties, according to STATS LLC. Among the 73 that trailed 2-0, just six achieved draws and the only one to win was Ivory Coast, 3-2 against Serbia in 2006.

AP

U.S. national soccer coach Bob Bradley, right, speaks to his son, midfielder Michael Bradley during training at Pilditch Stadium in Pretoria, South Africa Sunday, June 20, 2010.

Coach Bob Bradley preaches caution in the opening minutes, saying players must work themselves into the rhythm and flow of the game. But by the time they get into it, it's time to play catch up.

"It seems like in that feeling-out process of the game, you find yourselves behind too often," Bradley said. "So we're all looking hard."

It hasn't been fatal, so far. With a victory in Wednesday's Group C finale against Algeria - or even possibly a tie if England fails to beat Slovenia—the U.S. would advance to the second round for the first time since 2002.

Slovenia (1-0-1) leads with four points, and the U.S. (0-0-2) is second with two, ahead of England (0-0-2) based on a 3-1 advantage in goals. The Desert Foxes (0-1-1) are last with one point and can advance only with a victory.

"Initially it's going to be a game that's going to be tight," Dempsey predicted. "And then as the game goes on, seeing how things go, it's going to have to open up, no matter what. People are going to start taking risks because we know that pretty much a draw is not going to get you through."

Practice resumed on a warm Sunday—winter begins the next day—with most players ditching the ski caps and sweat pants they had been wearing since the cold snap began Tuesday. Just two additional training sessions remained before taking on Algeria.

The U.S. has never won a World Cup match in which it trailed, scoring first in all six victories (Belgium and Paraguay in 1930; England in 1950; Colombia in 1994; Portugal and Mexico in 2002).

Of the 16 American losses, the U.S. held the lead in only one, a 3-1 opening defeat to Spain in 1950.

Players know falling behind repeatedly is a pattern that ultimately leads to failure. They just don't know what to do about it.

"Warmups have been fine. Attitude going out before the tunnel has been fine. So I don't think there's one thing that we could put our finger on," defender Jay DeMerit said. "But we are a team that seems to really respond to that."

Maybe it just suits them. With the insertion of Edu and Benny Feilhaber at the start of the second half Friday night in place of Jose Torres and Robbie Findley, the U.S. was much more assertive in pressuring the Slovenes.

"We started hitting them long and letting the big boys up front hit those guys in the mouth and get forward and push them around and wrestle them, and you saw how well we did," Howard said. "And sometimes that's not always on your mind when the game starts. You want it to be a little bit more pretty and a little bit more flashy and so, again, I don't know the answer to it yet. We can all go around and say, `Hey, let's get an early lead.' But that doesn't always translate on the field. So with a little bit more hard work and concentration and, hopefully, a little bit of luck, we can get on the right end of the score early on."

Pavano throws 4-hitter to beat Halladay, Phils

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carl Pavano and Roy Halladay both threw strikes and pitched to contact. Minnesota was the team that found a few holes.

Pavano finished with a four-hitter for his second complete game this season, and Justin Morneau and Denard Span homered to lead the Twins past Halladay and the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 on Sunday.

Pavano (8-6) won his third straight start while snapping a three-game road losing streak. The right-hander struck out two and walked none in his ninth career complete game.

"The ground balls were all gobbled up," Pavano said. "The boys played great behind me and we beat a tough pitcher today."

The only run Pavano allowed came on Wilson Valdez's sixth-inning homer. He retired the next 13 batters before Ryan Howard's two-out single in the ninth.

"Pavano was fantastic," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "That's an unbelievable lineup they have over there, but he kept them off balance and got his pitches over for strikes."

Jason Kubel and Joe Mauer had RBI singles for the AL Central leaders, who pounded out 11 hits off Halladay and took the final two games of the three-game series. Minnesota rallied from a five-run deficit in the ninth inning Saturday and won in the 11th.

Halladay (8-6) lost his third straight start, giving up a season high in hits while striking out eight and walking none in eight innings. In his last two starts, the right-hander has yielded 10 runs (nine earned) and 19 hits, including five homers, in 14 innings.

"I pitched to contact and they put the ball in play and sometimes found holes," Halladay said. "The two homers are what really cost me."

Halladay didn't get much help from his offense, which appeared to be snapping out of its funk by scoring 32 runs in its last four games after averaging 2.4 runs during a 6-15 stretch. Besides Valdez's homer and Howard's hit, the Phillies got only a pair of fourth-inning singles by Placido Polanco and Chase Utley.

"We didn't put up enough offense to win," manager Charlie Manuel said. "Pavano held us down. He was moving the ball around, using all of his pitches. We hit some balls hard early, but they got caught."

Philadelphia has totaled nine runs in Halladay's six losses.

"My job is to focus on executing pitches whether we score nine or none," Halladay said.

Mauer's RBI single in the first inning scored Orlando Hudson. The Twins extended the advantage to two runs with Span's one-out homer in the fifth.

Valdez pulled the Phillies within 2-1 in the bottom half by hitting a home run to left for the second straight day. It marked a surprising power surge for Valdez, who homered once in his first 451 major league at-bats before connecting twice in his next six.

Minnesota, however, got the run back in the sixth when Morneau scored on Kubel's single to right.

Morneau reached second in strange fashion. He singled to center, took a big turn around first and raced to second when Shane Victorino(notes) threw behind him trying to get him out at first. Victorino was charged with an error on the play.

Kubel went 2 for 4, extending his hitting streak to 12 games while finally solving Halladay. Kubel entered 1 for 17 against the ace right-hander.

Morneau's solo homer to right in the eighth made it 4-1.

AP

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Carl Pavano throws against the Philadelphia Phillies in the seventh inning of an interleague baseball game Sunday, June 20, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Red Sox 2, Dodgers 0

At Boston, Clay Buchholz and two relievers combined on a four-hit shutout to help Boston beat the Dodgers and send Manny Ramirez back to Los Angeles without a win.

Buchholz (10-4) allowed three hits, three walks and two hit batsmen while striking out four to complete the three-game sweep and win for the seventh time in his past eight starts.

Dustin Pedroia had three hits, including an eighth-inning triple. He also stole second twice, and took third on one of them after seeing that the Dodgers, playing an infield shift with David Ortiz at-bat, had no one covering the bag.

Marlins 4, Rays 1

At Miami, Josh Johnson outpitched David Price in a matchup of two of baseball's top starters, and Wes Helms hit a two-run homer as Florida beat Tampa Bay.

Johnson (8-2) gave up six hits in eight innings, striking out nine, walking none and throwing 87 of his 117 pitches for strikes while lowering his ERA a tiny bit to 1.80.

Rangers 5, Astros 4, 10 innings

At Houston, Josh Hamilton equaled a career high with five hits, including a tying single in the ninth inning and a go-ahead single in the 10th that lifted Texas over Houston for its season-best eighth straight win.

Julio Borbon hit a leadoff single in the 10th against Casey Daigle (0-1). After Vladimir Guerrero was intentionally walked with two outs, Hamilton singled off Gustavo Chacin.

Yankees 4, Mets 0

At New York, CC Sabathia was dominant over eight innings in his rematch against Johan Santana, and Mark Teixeira hit a grand slam to help the New York Yankees beat the Mets to secure a Subway Series split.

Sabathia (8-3), denied a shot at a shutout of the season by a 22-minute rain delay in the eighth, allowed four hits. The Yankees and Mets went 3-3 against each other this season.

Mariners 1, Reds 0

At Seattle, Ryan Rowland-Smith earned his first win of the season, holding Cincinnati to three hits over six innings to lead Seattle over Cincinnati to complete a sweep.

The Reds scored only one run in the three-game series. Cincinnati has lost six of seven.

Both teams finished with only three hits in the finale.

Padres 9, Orioles 4

At San Diego, Will Venable hit a three-run homer, dashing Jake Arrieta's bid to win his first three big league starts, as San Diego rallied from a four-run deficit in the first inning to beat Baltimore.

Venable tied his career high with four RBIs and Nick Hundley homered and drove in three runs for the NL West leaders, who took two of three from the struggling Orioles.

Athletics 3, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Kevin Kouzmanoff had a season-high four hits, including a home run, and Trevor Cahill threw six strong innings to lead Oakland over St. Louis.

The A's snapped a four-game losing streak with their second win in nine games.

Matt Holliday hit two home runs for St. Louis, which went 4-2 on the six-game homestand. Holliday was 8 for 12 in the series with four home runs and eight RBIs.

White Sox 6, Nationals 3

At Washington, Paul Konerko drove in three runs and Freddy Garcia won his fifth straight start as the Chicago White Sox beat Washington for their season-high sixth victory in a row.

The Nationals lost their season-worst sixth straight game.

Tigers 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Detroit, Max Scherzer pitched seven impressive innings against his former team as late home runs by Brennan Boesch and Carlos Guillen rallied Detroit over Arizona.

Boesch and Guillen hit consecutive homers in the seventh to help the Tigers finish up an 8-1 homestand against NL opponents. Arizona has lost 15 of its last 16 road games.

Cubs 12, Angels 1

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano pitched seven strong innings, Derrek Lee drove in a season-high four runs and Geovany Soto homered to send the Chicago Cubs past the Los Angeles Angels.

It was quite a turnaround for the Cubs, who had dropped six of nine and were coming off a 12-0 loss that left fans peppering them with boos.

The Cubs matched a season-high with 18 hits after collecting two on Saturday, and they took advantage of some defensive lapses, scoring two runs in each of the first two innings and chasing Joe Saunders (5-8) in a four-run third that made it 8-0.

Giants 9, Blue Jays 6

At Toronto, Freddy Sanchez, Pat Burrell and Aubrey Huff homered as San Francisco beat Toronto for its first win at an AL ballpark this season.

The Giants had been 0-5 in interleague road games until winning the series finale.

Sanchez hit a three-run homer, ending a drought of 196 at-bats without a home run since last Aug. 4. Burrell added a two-run shot.

Braves 8, Royals 5

At Atlanta, Eric Hinske's two-run double broke an eighth-inning tie and Chipper Jones had three RBIs to help Atlanta beat Kansas City for its fifth straight win.

Melky Cabrera added an RBI single in the eighth off Blake Wood (0-1) for the Braves, who improved to 24-7 at home.

Pirates 5, Indians 3

At Pittsburgh, rookie Pedro Alvarez's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning drove in the go-ahead run as Pittsburgh withstood Carlos Santana's big game to beat Cleveland.

Pittsburgh won its second in a row in the matchup of last-place Central Division teams after dropping 12 in a row—one short of the club's modern-era single-season record—and 18 of 21.

Brewers 6, Rockies 1

At Denver, Rickie Weeks and Corey Hart hit two-run doubles in a five-run ninth inning as Milwaukee averted a series sweep by rallying past Colorado.

With the score tied at 1-1, the Brewers broke through against reliever Manuel Corpas (1-4), who allowed all five runs while facing five batters without retiring any of them.

Grizzlies give Wallace multi-year extension

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace has signed a multiyear contract extension that gives the team continuity among its leadership.

The team announced Sunday that Wallace had agreed to the deal, though neither the Grizzlies nor Wallace would discuss its length or financial terms. The team also signed coach Lionel Hollins to a three-year contract in April.

"It's always good to get a contract," Wallace said after a pre-draft workout Sunday. "My family and I are very happy here in Memphis. We love this city, love to be here a long time running. And the team made real strides last year."

Wallace watched six players audition for the Grizzlies, including Kentucky forward Patrick Patterson, West Virginia forward Devin Ebanks and Mississippi guard Terrico White, who is from Memphis.

The GM said the team plans a few more workouts this week. The Grizzlies have the 12th, 25th and 28th picks in the first round of Thursday's draft.

There's a lot of work to be done before then, including investigating trade options, he said.

"Every draft is critical, even if you just have the 60th pick," Wallace said. "It's a great opportunity for us with these three picks to come up with players that can play now, and future assets as well."

Wallace has worked as a scout, director of player personnel and general manager for seven teams over a 23-year career. He was the Boston Celtics' general manager before he was hired by the Grizzlies in 2007.

Wallace has been involved in three of the team's most pivotal transactions. He traded forward Pau Gasol to the Lakers—where he has become a two-time NBA champion—for a package that included the draft rights to Gasol's brother, Marc.

He also engineered the draft-day deal that brought guard O.J. Mayo to Memphis in 2008. In July 2009, he traded journeyman Quentin Richardson to Portland for forward Zach Randolph, who led the team in scoring and rebounding last winter and made the All-Star team.

Last season, the once-woeful Grizzlies were part of the playoff picture before folding down the stretch. They were 40-42, falling just short of their first .500 season since 2006 and posting the second best improvement in wins behind Oklahoma City.

The Grizzlies are 86-160 with Wallace as GM.

Deadline to sign up for Escape from Managaha tomorrow

Swimmers interested in joining the 2010 Escape from Managaha have until tomorrow to register for the weekend event.

The race from the famous Managaha Island to Micro Beach will start at 6:30am this Saturday and participants are asked to be at the Outer Cover Marina by 5:30am for a boat ride to the starting area.

Registration is $25, inclusive of a boat ride, a T-shirt, and snacks.

Saipan Swim Club is organizing the race and is still looking for kayakers who will assist swimmers during the weekend event.

Besides the 2010 Escape from Managaha, SSC is also holding a developmental summer program divided into two batches.

The first batch had already started yesterday and will run until July 27. Lessons are held every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:45am to 10:30am at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The second batch will start today and will conclude on July 28 and each session will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 5:30pm to 6:15pm. Registration should be done 15 minutes before the lesson starts or interested swimmers should call SSC assistant coach Lisa Kimball first for reservation.

"For 36 years, SSC continues to work hard in preparing the next generation of young swimmers in representing the club and the CNMI in future swimming competitions. Our development program has been very successful in giving opportunities for children to engage in a recreational activity and become competitive," SSC said in a media release. "This summer, SSC is again giving Saipan community the best in what swimming has to give offer."

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Mike Villagomez will be leading the group of coaches who will conduct the developmental summer swimming program.

For more information about the program and the Escape from Managaha, contact Kimball at 322-1730) or e-mail at coach@saipanswimclub.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

GRAEME

From Page 28

this unlikely Open unfold along the Pacific coastline.

It was a final round no one expected.

Johnson took a triple bogey on the second hole to lose all of his three-shot lead, and a double bogey on the next hole ended his hopes. Three of the biggest stars of this generation were right there, ready to continue the lineage of great champions at Pebble Beach, only to play far below their expectations.

McDowell made only one birdie—an eight-foot birdie putt on the fifth hole—and his final round was the highest score by a U.S. Open champion since Andy North in 1985.

No matter. It added up to a one-shot victory over another surprise contender, Gregory Havret of France, who shot 72.

"I can't believe I'm standing with this right now," McDowell said, posing with silver trophy. "It's a dream come true. I've been dreaming it all my life. Two putts to win the U.S. Open. Can't believe it happened."

Woods couldn't believe it, either.

Poised to end six months of bad publicity over a shattered personal life, he bogeyed five of his first 10 holes and took himself out of contention with a 75.

Els and Mickelson hung around a little longer, and both had opportunities, but neither could capitalize.

Els had a brief share of the lead on the front nine but came undone along the coastal holes—including one stretch of bogey-double bogey-bogey—and never quite recovered. His hopes ended when he missed his target with a sand wedge on the par-5 14th and took bogey, then missed a four-foot birdie putt on the 15th.

He closed with a 73 to finish alone in third.

Mickelson, with another great chance to end a career of disappointment at the U.S. Open, holed a birdie putt from just off the green on the first hole, then didn't made another birdie the rest of the day. He also shot a 73 and tied for fourth with Woods, missing a chance to supplant Woods at No. 1 in the world.

Woods made only two birdies, but was more troubled by his mistakes.

"I made three mental mistakes," Woods said. "The only thing it cost us was a chance to win the U.S. Open."

Even so, nothing compares with what happened to Johnson. The 25-year-old American looked so unflappable all week, and came apart so quickly. On the final hole of a round he won't forget, Johnson missed a two-foot birdie putt and wound up with an 82. It was the highest closing round by a 54-hole leader in the U.S. Open since Fred McLeod shot 83 in 1911.

McDowell finished at even-par 284 and ended 40 years of questions about when a European would capture America's national championship. England's Tony Jacklin was the last one, in 1970 at Hazeltine.

McDowell had to work harder than he imagined.

Even under overcast skies and a stiff breeze, the course was firm and dangerous as ever. Davis Love III, with a 71, was the only player among the final five groups who matched par.

"I can't believe how difficult this golf course was," McDowell said. "No matter how good you play ... good golf got reward, and bad golf got punished really badly."

McDowell got into the U.S. Open by narrowly getting into the top 50 in the world at the deadline to avoid qualifying. He wound up with his first victory in America to go along with five European Tour victories, most recently the Wales Open last month at the home course for the Ryder Cup in October. He is sure to be part of the European team now, moving up to No. 12 in the world.

BBC

From Page 28

Both teams tried to spread the ball around in the beginning of the game, but the BBC Crusaders got off to a better start in that respect, scoring 24 points in the opening period from seven out of their eight players on the roster.

The eight-member squad from Guam showcased an avid team chemistry as the Sonics' main scoring threat, Tristan Ecalnea, tried to single-handedly get his Sonics back in contention throughout the second half.

Both teams essentially traded baskets in the final period, as the Sonics could not overcome the 12-point deficit they suffered in the first half.

"We played great offense all weekend long, and even though we could better minimize the turnovers, our guys recovered well and fought through it. We found a lot of rebounds, plenty of easy looks at the basket, and made our way to the free throw line a good amount times," said Crusaders coach Andrew Perez.

"Hard work, discipline, and teamwork have always been our key to winning. The Sonics fought hard and we all really enjoyed our stay here on Saipan," said BBC team captain Paul McCarrrel.

Like most of the players on the BBC Crusader squad in the 17-and-under division, this is McCarrel's third appearance in the RBC Invitational, as well as his third championship victory.

BBC2 41, Sonics 38

The BBC2 squad edged out the UBA Sonics in a very close 15-and-under division finals match.

Luis Cabral, Devin Malewelmeng, Allander Ebeo, and Neal Taitano provided the majority of the Crusaders' offensive sock. The foursome shared the ball well, which amounted to an even distribution of points.

Then the Crusaders stuck to their game plan in the second period in an attempt to wear down both the Sonics and the clock.

After the Sonics struggled to find a leader at the start of the game, Nevin Salem stepped up in the second half to try and fill the void. However, the Sonics still fell short, as the late surge from Salem just wasn't enough to knock off the Crusaders.

BBC 20, Rollers 17

In the first championship match of the RBC Invitational, the BBC Crusaders defeated the UBA youth Rollers, 20-17, in the 12-and-under age division.

This was a low-scoring duel, but J. Santos from the Crusaders controlled the tempo of the game. He scored five in the first half and six more in the second period in addition to receiving four and five points of support from his fellow teammates, J. McCarrel and L. Gaitan.

The Rollers trailed only by a basket at the half and William Camacho came out strong with five points for his Rollers in the second period, but could not get enough of his boys involved as three of them only managed to make one bucket each.

First Game

BBC 48 –McCarrel 13, Piolo 11, Mariano 9, Taitano 5, Villagomez 4, Chargualaf 2, Gaitan 2, Vitug 2.

Sonics 39 –Ecalnea 16, Palacios 7, Villanueva 7, Jung 4, Castro 2, Jeun 2, Cadriang 1.

Scoring by halves – 24-12, 48-39.

Second Game

BBC2 41 –Maluwelmeng 10, Taitano 10, Cabral 8, Ebeo 8, Quichocho 3, Mariano 2.

Sonics 38 –Salem 19, Aranda 5, DeGuzman 5, Mizer 4, Villanueva 3, Tadita 2.

Scoring by Halves - 21-20, 41-38.

Third Game

BBC 20 – Santos 11, Gaitan 5, McCarrel 4.

Rollers 17 –Camacho 7, Cenir 4, Adman 2, Darag 2, Feria 2.

Scoring by halves: 8-6, 20-17.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	43	26	.623	–
Tampa Bay	42	27	.609	1
Boston	43	28	.606	1
Toronto	38	32	.543	5 1/2
Baltimore	19	50	.275	24

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	40	29	.580	–
Detroit	38	30	.559	1 1/2
Chicago	34	34	.500	5 1/2
Kansas City	29	41	.414	11 1/2
Cleveland	26	42	.382	13 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	41	28	.594	–
Los Angeles	39	33	.542	3 1/2
Oakland	34	37	.479	8
Seattle	28	41	.406	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	42	28	.600	–
New York	39	30	.565	2 1/2
Philadelphia	35	32	.522	5 1/2
Florida	33	36	.478	8 1/2
Washington	31	39	.443	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	38	31	.551	–
Cincinnati	37	33	.529	1 1/2
Chicago	31	38	.449	7
Milwaukee	29	40	.420	9
Houston	26	44	.371	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	25	44	.362	13

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	40	29	.580	–
San Francisco	38	30	.559	1 1/2
Los Angeles	38	31	.551	2
Colorado	36	33	.522	4
Arizona	27	43	.386	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 3, Arizona 1
N.Y. Yankees 4, N.Y. Mets 0
San Francisco 9, Toronto 6
Florida 4, Tampa Bay 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Washington 3
Pittsburgh 5, Cleveland 3
Atlanta 8, Kansas City 5
Minnesota 4, Philadelphia 1
Texas 5, Houston 4, 10 innings
Oakland 3, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 12, L.A. Angels 1
Milwaukee 6, Colorado 1
San Diego 9, Baltimore 4
Seattle 1, Cincinnati 0
Boston 2, L.A. Dodgers 0

U.S. OPEN SCORES

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) – Scores Sunday from the U.S. Open, played at the par-71, 7,040-yard Pebble Beach Golf Links:

FINAL ROUND

Graeme McDowell, $1,350,000	71-68-71-74-284
Gregory Havret, $810,000	73-71-69-72-285
Ernie Els, $480,687	73-68-72-73-286
Phil Mickelson, $303,119	75-66-73-73-287
Tiger Woods, $303,119	74-72-66-75-287
Matt Kuchar, $228,255	74-72-74-68-288
Davis Love III, $228,255	75-74-68-71-288
Brandt Snedeker, $177,534	75-74-69-71-289
Martin Kaymer, $177,534	74-71-72-72-289
Alex Cejka, $177,534	70-72-74-73-289
Dustin Johnson, $177,534	71-70-66-82-289
Sean O'Hair, $143,714	76-71-70-73-290
Tim Clark, $143,714	72-72-72-74-290
Ben Curtis, $127,779	78-70-75-68-291
Justin Leonard, $127,779	72-73-73-73-291
Peter Hanson, $108,458	73-76-74-69-292
a-Scott Langley, $0	75-69-77-71-292
Lee Westwood, $108,458	74-71-76-71-292
Jim Furyk, $108,458	72-75-74-71-292
Charl Schwartzel, $108,458	74-71-74-73-292
a-Russell Henley, $0	73-74-72-73-292
Sergio Garcia, $83,634	73-76-73-71-293
Shaun Micheel, $83,634	69-77-75-72-293
Angel Cabrera, $83,634	75-72-74-72-293
Padraig Harrington, $83,634	73-73-74-73-293
John Mallinger, $83,634	77-72-70-74-293
Ricky Barnes, $67,195	72-76-74-72-294
Robert Karlsson, $67,195	75-72-74-73-294
Stuart Appleby, $54,871	73-76-76-70-295
Henrik Stenson, $54,871	77-70-74-74-295
Robert Allenby, $54,871	74-74-73-74-295
Tom Watson, $54,871	78-71-70-76-295
Jason Dufner, $44,472	72-73-79-72-296
Ryan Moore, $44,472	75-73-75-73-296
David Toms, $44,472	71-75-76-74-296
Kenny Perry, $44,472	72-77-73-74-296
Brendon de Jonge, $44,472	69-73-77-77-296
Soren Kjeldsen, $44,472	72-71-75-78-296
Ryo Ishikawa, $44,472	70-71-75-80-296
Bo Van Pelt, $34,722	72-75-82-68-297
Ross McGowan, $34,722	72-73-78-74-297
S.Y. Noh, $34,722	74-72-76-75-297
Vijay Singh, $34,722	74-72-75-76-297
Stewart Cink, $34,722	76-73-71-77-297
Bobby Gates, $34,722	75-74-71-77-297
Paul Casey, $34,722	69-73-77-78-297
Jim Herman, $23,385	76-73-81-68-298
Rafael Cabrera-Bello, $23,385	70-75-81-72-298
Chris Stroud, $23,385	77-72-76-73-298
Thongchai Jaidee, $23,385	74-75-74-75-298
Jason Gore, $23,385	76-73-74-75-298
Jason Allred, $23,385	72-73-76-77-298
Scott Verplank, $23,385	72-74-75-77-298
K. J. Choi, $23,385	70-73-77-78-298
Ian Poulter, $23,385	70-73-77-78-298
Luke Donald, $23,385	71-75-74-78-298
Edoardo Molinari, $23,385	75-72-72-79-298
Steve Stricker, $18,368	75-74-77-73-299
Retief Goosen, $18,368	75-74-76-74-299
Lucas Glover, $18,368	73-73-77-76-299
Hiroyuki Fujita, $18,368	72-77-74-76-299
Yuta Ikeda, $18,368	77-72-73-77-299
Gareth Maybin, $16,672	74-75-76-75-300
Toru Taniguchi, $16,672	73-76-76-75-300
Steve Wheatcroft, $16,672	74-73-77-76-300
Jerry Kelly, $16,672	72-70-81-77-300
Eric Axley, $16,672	75-73-75-77-300
Steve Marino, $16,672	73-75-73-79-300
Erick Justesen, $15,651	74-74-80-73-301
Camilo Villegas, $14,921	78-69-79-76-302
Fred Funk, $14,921	74-72-77-79-302
Matt Bettencourt, $14,921	72-74-77-79-302
David Duval, $14,921	75-73-74-80-302
Rhys Davies, $14,045	78-70-79-76-303
Kent Jones, $14,045	73-76-78-76-303
Nick Watney, $13,608	76-71-77-81-305
Matthew Richardson, $13,023	73-75-80-78-306
Zach Johnson, $13,023	72-77-78-79-306
Craig Barlow, $13,023	73-75-77-81-306
Mike Weir, $12,293	70-79-83-75-307
Ty Tryon, $12,293	75-74-78-80-307
Pablo Martin, $11,707	73-76-83-79-311
Jason Preeo, $11,707	75-70-82-84-311

a-amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIBU'S

From Page 28

Jerry Ayuyu, who averaged .750 at bat. His teammate, John Terlaje, took the most runs scored award, as the latter recorded 46 runs.

In the doubles category, three players tied with Ramblers' Ben Falig, Mani Amigos' J.J. Laniyo and Ur Balls' Oliver Secharmidal making nine each. There was also a three-way tie for triples champion plum with Eric Palacios, Leonard Camacho and Michael Taitano collecting five apiece.

Hitz's Kyle Kaipat was the lone recipient of the RBIs champion trophy with his 62, while Chura's Mel Sakisat was named strikeout king with his 30 strikeouts. Completing the top individual performers list was Island Rebels' Marvin Palacios, who claimed the ERA champion trophy after tallying 4.98 ERA.

TAGA

From Page 28

giving Taga a 20-17 lead. Apelo was not done yet, as he drilled nine more points in the second period, upping Taga Security's lead to seven at the break, 39-32.

In the third period, Apelo was held to a field goal, but Lansang and Javier were there to step up and combine for 11 points, as Taga kept the seven-point advantage, 57-50, entering the final canto.

Mythical Five cut the lead to as low as three at the start of the fourth period behind Jun Tabora's breakaway layup, but Manlali and Ong hit timely baskets to foil their foes' repeated comeback bids.

Tabora led Mythical Five's losing cause, firing 27 points, while Gilbert Miranda posted 13.

Taga Security 81 – Manlali 19, Lansang 18, Apelo 16, Javier 15, Ong 10.

Mythical Five 73 – Tabora 27, Miranda 13, Rebuyon 11, Buenabajo 10, Tobias 8, Alvarez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 39-32, 57-50, 81-73.

2010 MGD/MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League

IT&E's Edsel Mendoza goes to the middle for a layup against two Easy Does It players.

The finalists in the 2010 MGD/MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League—Easy Does It and IT&E—pose for a group photo after IT&E took the championship, following a 77-70 win in their title game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Michael Surima, right, of CGD Pawnshop receives the Sportsmanship award from Josifynn Vivian Q. Rasa, right, and Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI vice president Joe Pangelinan.

Cuki Alvarez, right, of Trench Tech receives a certificate of appreciation for supporting the Masters caging.

IT&E's Bruce Berline pulls up for a jumper against three Easy Does It defenders

Easy Does It's Joe Guerrero beats IT&E's John Palacios in a rebound play.

Easy Does It players receive their Pool A championship trophy from Josifynn Vivian Q. Rasa.

IT&E and Easy Does It players gets ready for the rebound play.

Several members of IT&E players pose with their championship trophy and Liberation Day Queen candidate Josifynn Vivian Q. Rasa, center, during the awards ceremony for the Masters caging last Sunday at Minatchom Atdavo pavilion.

Pavano throws 4-hitter to beat Halladay, Phils

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Italy held to another draw, Brazil advances

PAGE 24

Graeme McDowell holds on, wins US Open

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—In a U.S. Open with golf's biggest stars on the leaderboard, it was Graeme McDowell who played like one.

McDowell seized control after a shocking collapse by Dustin Johnson, then failed to get flustered with Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els lined up behind him. The 30-year-old from Northern Ireland wasn't perfect, but he was good enough.

He closed with a 3-over 74 to become the first European in 40 years to capture the U.S. Open, getting an embrace on the 18th green from his father.

"You're something, kid," Kenny McDowell said, speaking for thousands who watched

See GRAEME on Page 26

AP

Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland holds up the U.S. Open trophy with his father Ken after winning the golf tournament Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Taga Security's Eric Manlali, left, dribbles past Mythical Five's Gilbert Mirand during their game in the Miller Lite caging on Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Taga Security keeps clean slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Taga Security remained unbeaten in the 2010 Miller Lite Invitational Basketball Tournament after nailing an 81-73 victory over Mythical Five on Saturday night at the Gualo Rai basketball court.

The Taga Security-Mythical Five tiff in Pool B was the lone game played that night, as the first match between Migs and Palms Resort in Pool A was forfeited. Palms Resort had a no-show, awarding Migs its second win in four games. Palms Resort dropped to a dismal 0-4 record.

Taga improved to a 3-0 slate for the top spot in Pool B, while Mythical Five absorbed its third loss after four matches.

A balance offense helped Taga beat Mythical Five, as the former drew double figures from five players. Eric Manlali top-scored for Taga Security with his 19 points, while Chris Lansang and Leo Apelo added 18 and 16, respectively. Jojo Javier contributed 15, while Jojo Ong tallied 10.

Manlali drilled seven of his total points in the first quarter, while Apelo chipped in six,

See TAGA on Page 26

Natibu's Norita, Hocog win MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Natibu swept the most valuable player awards in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after pitcher Ned Norita and catcher Carl Hocog were named regular season and Finals MVP, respectively.

Norita was awarded the regular season MVP plum after leading Natibu to an 18-2 record in the round-robin elimination. Norita's team finished the regular season tied with Island Rebels, but still won the pennant after prevailing in a playoff game, 19-18.

Natibu went on to advance in the finals against Man Amigos and took the championship after a 20-18 triumph.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Finals MVP Carl Hocog, right, joins, from left, Ken Kalen, Kyle Kaipat, Jerry Ayuyu, and B.J. Sablan for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Chamolinian softball league last Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In the championship game, Hocog stepped up on offense, as he went 4-for-4 at bat. He hit back-to-back three-run homers to spark Natibu's run. Natibu was scoreless in the first inning when Hocog's round-tripper brought Pete Teigita and B.J. Sablan home and put the team in the scoreboard in the second inning.

Despite Hocog's three-run homer, Natibu still fell behind after two innings, 5-3. Then Hocog blasted another three-run round-tripper at the top of the third and Natibu ended the inning on top, 9-6.

Hocog, Norita, and other top individual and team performers in the 21-team league received their trophies during the awards banquet at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Receiving the batting champion trophy was Man Amigos'

See NATIBU'S on Page 26

BBC sweeps RBC Invitational

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Guam's Barrigada Basketball Club won all three age divisions of the 2010 IT&E Rollers Basketball Club Summer Youth Basketball Invitational finals held yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the 17-and-under division, BBC Crusaders soundly defeated the Sonics, a local Unified Basketball Association team, by a score of 48-39.

See BBC on Page 26

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

The Barrigada Basketball Club's Crusaders from Guam went undefeated in the 17-and-under division en route to winning the championship of the 2010 IT&E Rollers Basketball Club Youth Summer Basketball Invitational held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.